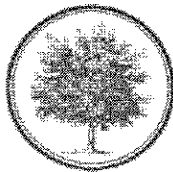


From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 3:17 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: After Attending Oral Arguments in Janus v. AFSCME Buckeye's Robert Alt Reacts

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 26, 2018

After Attending Oral Arguments in Janus v. AFSCME, Buckeye's Robert Alt Reacts

Columbus, OH -- Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer of **The Buckeye Institute**, issued the following statement after attending the oral arguments in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31* at the Supreme Court of the United States.

"Today, Mark Janus, and all hard-working public employees, had their day in court. Mr. Janus's lawsuit has the potential to be one of the most important labor and free speech cases in the past 40 years.

"Justice Kennedy, who is traditionally a swing vote on the Supreme Court, asked very tough questions of the union lawyers, in which he expressed major concerns about the speech at issue being both compelled and political. Given how frequently Justice Kennedy

is in the majority, his questions have to be a cause of concern for those seeking to continue the practice of forcing public servants to pay for union speech with which they may disagree.

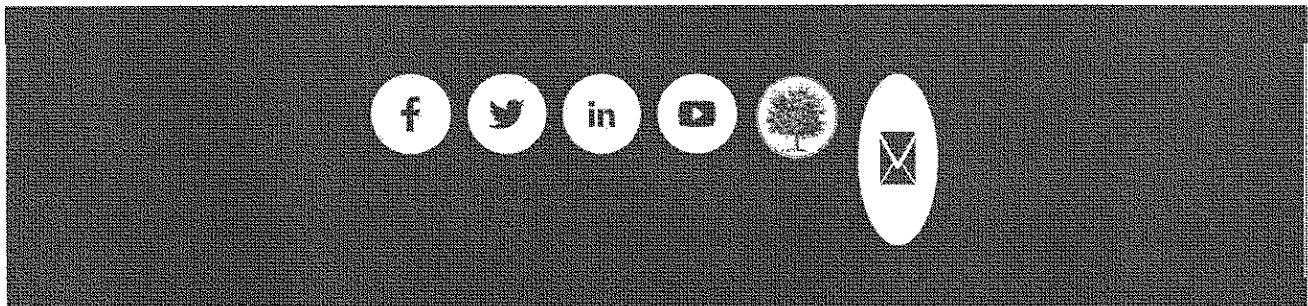
"What Mark, and others before him have done is not easy. Standing up for your rights and the rights of others is rarely an easy thing to do, but it must be done. It is immoral for the government to force hard-working public servants to pay for political speech with which they disagree under the threat of being fired. It is also unconstitutional."

The Buckeye Institute **filed briefs** with the Supreme Court of the United States supporting the free speech rights of public employees like Mr. Janus.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

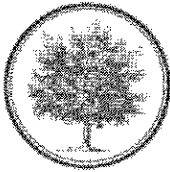
[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 4:19 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: The Buckeye Institute Reacts to 2018 Capital Budget, Urges Spending to Focus on Physical and Democratic Infrastructure Needs

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 26, 2018

The Buckeye Institute Reacts to 2018 Capital Budget, Urges Spending to Focus on Physical and Democratic Infrastructure Needs

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute issued the following statement on the introduction on the 2018 capital budget, **Senate Bill 266** and **House Bill 529**.

"With the capital budget officially introduced, Ohioans will now be able to see how many millions of dollars are being appropriately spent on critical infrastructure and core government services versus being set aside for pet local projects and pork spending," said Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "And rest assured, Buckeye will be reviewing the budget to see how closely it aligns to the principles we laid out in *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*."

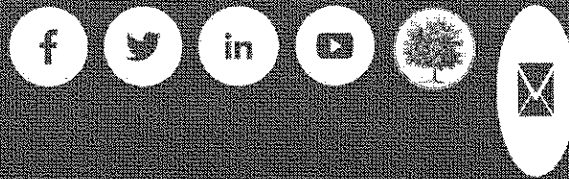
"Regardless of where the capital budget begins, policymakers still have an opportunity to adhere to these principles - constrain the growth of state government, eliminate corporate

and special interest welfare, and focus spending on the core functions of state government," Lawson continued. "Ohioans' taxpayer dollars should be used to strengthen the state's physical and democratic infrastructure, not on special interest pork projects that should be funded through private means."

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

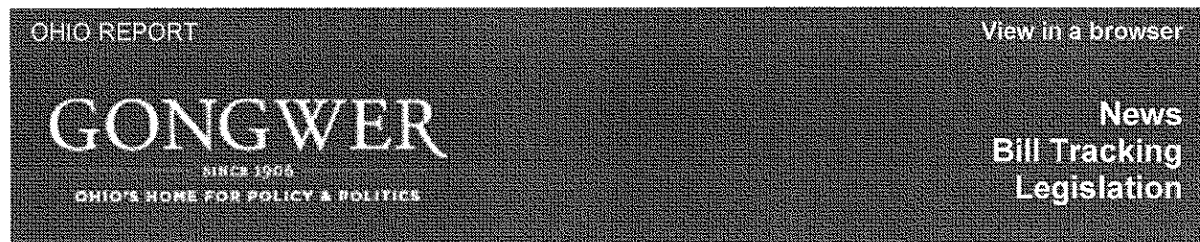
[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 6:26 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, February 26, 2018
Attachments: 180226dayplan.htm; Feb26Senate.htm; Feb26House.htm; Feb26.htm

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please unsubscribe



OHIO REPORT MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

\$2.62 Billion Capital Budget Prioritizes Projects To Address Opiate Addiction, Related Issues

Cardinal Health Among Drug Distributors Targeted In Latest DeWine Opioid Suit

Nearly \$29M In State IT Funding Clears Controlling Board

Adult Charge Stemming From Juvenile Conviction Challenged At High Court

Ohio Groups Debate Trump's Short-Term Health Plan Proposal

Travel Trailer Maker Tops List Of Tax Credits Issued By State Panel

Kasich Declares Emergency As Flood Risks Continue

Cyberattack Temporarily Shuts Down State Websites, Phones

Environmental Group Calls For Setback, Chemical Reporting Changes Following Well Fire

Schiavoni, Williams Plan Firearm Removal Bill; Yost Unveils School Safety Plan; High Court Hears Janus Case; Kucinich Continues Gun Push...

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Event Planner

ACTIVITY REPORTS

House

Senate

CALENDARS

Day Planner

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

[View as a Web Page](#)

Copyright 2018 Gongwer News Service/Ohio
17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215

All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without
express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)



Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, February 27

Legislative Committees

Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce (Committee Record) (Chr. LaRose, F., 466-4823), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- HB 159** **MONTH DESIGNATION (Riedel, C.)** To designate May as "Drive Ohio Byways Month." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 195** **WHEELCHAIR TRANSPORTS (Ingram, C., Seitz, B.)** To modify the provisions concerning the transport of persons who require the use of a wheelchair or other mobility aid in nonemergency circumstances. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HCR 19** **HATE GROUPS (Leland, D., Greenspan, D.)** To denounce and oppose the totalitarian impulses, violent terrorism, xenophobic biases, and bigoted ideologies that are promoted by white nationalists and neo-Nazis, to urge law enforcement to recognize white nationalist and neo-Nazi groups as terrorist organizations, and to pursue the criminal elements of these domestic terrorist organizations in the same manner and with the same fervor used to protect the United States from other manifestations of terrorism. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 336** **LICENSE FEES (Barnes, J., Greenspan, D.)** To prohibit the imposition of driver's license and temporary instruction permit reinstatement fees in specified circumstances and to name this act the Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 250** **ELECTRIC BICYCLES (Brinkman, T.)** To establish requirements for the use of electric bicycles. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 466-8082), South Hearing Rm., 9:45 a.m.

- **Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of Scott Arthur, State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services**

- HB 307** **MONTH DESIGNATION (Gonzales, A.)** To designate September as "We Card Month." (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 229** **DAY DESIGNATION (Romanchuk, M., Wiggam, S.)** To designate February 3 as "Charles Follis Day." (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 202** **AWARENESS DAY (Thompson, A.)** To designate the first Saturday of May as "Veterans Suicide Awareness Day." (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 106** **SMOKING (Tavares, C.)** To prohibit smoking in a motor vehicle in which a child under six years of age is a passenger. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 194** **LICENSE PLATES (Johnson, T., Craig, H.)** To establish a program for the issuance of special license plates related to military service and awards. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3506), Rm. 119, 10 a.m.

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Schaffer, T., 466-8100), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.

SB 226 TAX HOLIDAY (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 22 TAX LAWS (Peterson, B.) To expressly incorporate changes in the Internal Revenue Code since February 14, 2016, into Ohio law. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

HB 507 TAX CREDIT (Gonzales, A.) To allow a refundable income tax credit for parents of stillborn children. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 488 TAX LEVIES (Hood, R., Becker, J.) To modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

Senate Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Bacon, K., 466-8064), North Hearing Rm., 10:15 a.m.

- **Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Mark Wasylshyn, Michael Staley, Brian Simms and Jay Beighley, Ohio Private Investigation and Security Services Commission**

SB 66 CRIMINAL LAWS (Eklund, J., Tavares, C.) To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by including rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive fourth or fifth degree felony community control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility criteria and procedures for granting intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB 231 OFFENDER DATABASE (Gardner, R.) To provide for a violent offender database, require violent offenders to enroll in the database, and name those provisions of the act "Sierah's Law;" to modify the membership and duties of the Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition and eliminate its repeal; to require halfway houses to use the single validated risk assessment tool for adult offenders that the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has developed; and to provide that the notice of release from prison of specified serious offense offenders that is given to sheriffs is to be the same as that provided to prosecuting attorneys and eliminate the notice to sheriffs regarding pardons, commutations, paroles, and transitional control transfers of offenders. (2nd Hearing-Possible amendments)

- SB 171** **PROTECTION ORDERS** (Hottinger, J.) To increase the penalty that applies to the offense of violating a protection order under certain circumstances and to require electronic monitoring of those convicted of violating certain protection orders to be carried out by probation agencies. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- SB 195** **DOGS LAW** (Beagle, B.) To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of certain violations of that Law. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- SB 244** **PROSTITUTION** (Dolan, M., Manning, G.) To amend the penalties for promoting prostitution. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- House Finance** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366**), Rm. 313, 11 a.m.
- HB 529** **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30,2020. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)
- HB 508** **OHIO CORPS** (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.) To establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project and to make an appropriation. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 378** **BROADBAND GRANTS** (Smith, R., Cera, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)
- House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Young, R., 644-6074**), Rm. 113, 1:30 p.m.
- HB 504** **INTERIOR DESIGNERS** (Pelanda, D.) Regarding interior designers. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 263** **OUTDOOR DINING AREAS** (Lanese, L.) To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog to take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 211** **HOME INSPECTORS** (Hughes, J.) To require the licensure of home inspectors and to create the Ohio Home Inspector Board to regulate the licensure and performance of home inspectors. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 433** **VETERINARY EDUCATION** (Kelly, B., Brinkman, T.) To allow a licensed veterinarian to receive up to two continuing education credits per biennium for performing free spaying and neutering services. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- House Criminal Justice** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Manning, N., 644-5076**), Rm. 114, 1:30 p.m.
- HB 457** **DRUG TREATMENT** (Antani, N.) To require that an offender serving a community control sanction or a parolee who fails a drug test for heroin,

fentanyl, or carfentanil be held in jail or admitted to a residential treatment program for up to 30 days. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 391 **ECONOMIC LOSSES** (**Merrin, D.**) To include the cost of accounting done to determine the extent of economic loss as a type of economic loss for which restitution may be granted. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & substitute)

House State & Local Government (Committee Record) (**Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041**), Rm. 017, 2 p.m.

HB 454 **CEMETERY LOTS** (**Patterson, J., Arndt, S.**) To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HR 299 **DRUG USE** (**Young, R., Ginter, T.**) To recognize the efforts and successes of the faith-based community in supporting and assisting individuals who are suffering from opioid and other drug abuse and addiction. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 483 **WEEK DESIGNATION** (**Patterson, J.**) To designate the second week of October as "Ohio Covered Bridge Week." (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 484 **HEALTH DISTRICTS** (**Brenner, A.**) To authorize city and general health districts to use credit cards in accordance with prescribed requirements. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 492 **STATE PROCUREMENT** (**Gonzales, A.**) To establish the women-owned business enterprise program requiring state agencies to establish women-owned business procurement goals. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 493 **MINORITY ENTERPRISES** (**Gonzales, A.**) To authorize the Director of Administrative Services to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states with respect to the certification of minority business enterprises and EDGE business enterprises. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 500 **TOWNSHIP LAWS** (**Carfagna, R.**) To make various changes to township law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (**Chr. Blessing, L., 466-9091**), Rm. 313, 2 p.m.

- **Note time & room change.**

HB 382 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** (**Schuring, K.**) To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (15th Hearing-All testimony)

- HJR 4** **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** (Schuring, K.) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (15th Hearing-All testimony)
- HB 512** **EDUCATION DEPARTMENT** (Reineke, B.) To establish the Department of Learning and Achievement; to abolish the Department of Higher Education, the position of the Chancellor of Higher Education, and the Ohio Board of Regents; to transfer, with exceptions, the duties regarding the administration of primary and secondary education programs and all duties regarding the administration of higher education programs to the Department of Learning and Achievement; and to prescribe certain duties regarding educator licensure, community school sponsorship, and other education programs for the State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Department of Education. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 451** **PUBLIC RECORDS** (Retherford, W.) To exclude from the definition of public record under the Public Records Law any depiction by photograph, film, videotape, or digital, visual, or printed material of victims of crime under specified circumstances dealing with the victims' bodily privacy. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- SB 223** **USED TIRES** (LaRose, F.) To prohibit the installation of unsafe used tires on certain motor vehicles. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- SB 10** **PRIMARY ELECTIONS** (LaRose, F.) To expand the circumstances under which a board of elections or the secretary of state is not required to hold a primary election. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)
- HB 506** **DOG BREEDERS** (Hill, B.) To revise the law governing high volume dog breeders. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)
- HB 469** **TAX CREDIT** (Schuring, K., Patton, T.) To authorize a nonrefundable insurance company tax credit for contributions of capital to transformational mixed use development projects. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 489** **FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** (Dever, J.) To provide some regulatory and tax relief to state banks and credit unions, to provide for data analytics to be conducted on publicly available information regarding banks, credit unions, and consumer finance companies, to modify when a creditor can file a claim against an estate, to require registration of mortgage loan servicers, and to require a specified notice be given to a debtor for certain debt collection. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)
- SB 139** **LEGAL MATERIALS** (Skindell, M., Eklund, J.) To adopt the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 450 **HEALTH BENEFITS** (Antani, N.) To impose review and other requirements on existing health insurance mandated benefits and to establish requirements for the creation of new mandated benefits. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 342 **TAX LEVIES** (Merrin, D.) To permit local tax-related proposals to appear only on general and primary election ballots and not on an August special election ballot and to modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (**Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626**), **Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m.**

- **Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Pamela Mowry, North Central State College Board of Trustees and Jo Ann Davidson and Ranjan Manoranjan, Ohio Casino Control Commission**

SB 266 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Oelslager, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (Presentation from OBM Director Tim Keen)

HB 168 **CEMETERY REGISTRATION** (Stein, D.) To modify duties of the Division of Real Estate in the Department of Commerce regarding cemetery registration, to specify cemetery owners must reasonably maintain cemeteries, to establish the Cemetery Grant Program, and to make an appropriation. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 251 **SUBDIVISION INVESTMENTS** (Greenspan, D.) To increase from five to ten years the maturity period of other political subdivision's bonds and obligations eligible for investment of a subdivision's interim moneys, a county's inactive moneys, and money in the county public library fund. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid (Committee Record) (**Chr. Burke, D., 466-8049**), **South Hearing Rm., 3:15 p.m.**

SB 218 **MEDICAID PROVIDERS** (Lehner, P.) Regarding surety bonds and minimum training for certain Medicaid providers. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)

HB 332 **ANATOMICAL GIFTS** (Antani, N.) Regarding anatomical gifts, transplantation, and discrimination on the basis of disability. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 340 **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE** (Young, R.) Regarding the release of information concerning public and medical assistance recipients. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 233 **COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTION** (Thomas, C.) To allow a cottage food production operator to use a firebrick oven located on a patio at the operator's residence for purposes of the cottage food production operation (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 111 **MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS** (Carfagna, R., Ryan, S.) To authorize certain advanced practice registered nurses to have a person involuntarily

transported to a hospital for a mental health examination. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

House Education & Career Readiness (Committee Record) (Chr. Brenner, A., 644-6711), Rm. 121, 4 p.m.

- HB 502 YOUTH SUICIDE (Anielski, M.)** With regard to educator inservice training on youth suicide awareness and prevention in public schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 503 YOUTH SUICIDE (Anielski, M.)** With regard to educator inservice training on youth suicide awareness and prevention in private schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 318 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.)** To define the necessary qualifications and responsibilities of school resource officers. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)
- HB 428 STUDENT EXPRESSION (Ginter, T., LaTourette, S.)** Regarding student religious expression and to entitle the act the "Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2018." (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- HB 491 EDUCATION LICENSE (Edwards, J.)** To require the State Board of Education to issue a substitute license to specified pupil services personnel. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)
- HB 360 BULLYING (Greenspan, D.)** To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges. (4th Hearing-Possible substitute)

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Committee Record) (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.

- SR 342 COLUMBUS CREW (Kunze, S.)** To urge the investor-operator and chairperson of Columbus Crew Soccer Club to keep the franchise in Columbus. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- SB 221 AGENCY RULEMAKING (Uecker, J.)** To reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof. (3rd Hearing-Opponent-Possible amendments)
- HB 226 FIREWORKS (Seitz, B., Sweeney, M.)** To establish a fireworks study group to review and make recommendations regarding the Fireworks Law, to extend to July 1, 2020, the moratorium on issuing fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses, to eliminate, beginning January 1, 2021, the moratorium on geographic transfer of fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses, and, beginning July 1, 2020, to impose a fee on the retail sale of consumer grade fireworks in this state and to expand the ability of individuals to obtain 1.3G display fireworks and obtain and use 1.4G consumer fireworks. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 239 REGIONAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS (Dolan, M.)** To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

Agency Calendar

**Board of Building Appeals, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road,
Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 8:30 a.m.**

Event Planner

State Auditor Dave Yost and GOP lawmakers news conference on Medicaid compliance, Press Briefing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Ohio Lobbying Association Annual Meeting & Legislative Reception, Sheraton Columbus at Capital Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus, 4 p.m., (4:00 pm - Annual Meeting for OLA Members; 5:00 pm - Legislative Reception. More info and to register: http://bit.ly/2018_OLA_AM)

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Westies Gastropub, 940 S. Front Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$250 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

**17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215**

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

**Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger,
Jon Reed, Staff Writers**

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Senate Activity for Monday, February 26, 2018

INTRODUCED

SB 266 ■ **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Oelslager, S.)** To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020.

Gongwer Coverage

SB 267 ■ **SOLICITING (Brown, E., Kunze, S.)** To increase the penalty for soliciting when the person solicited is eighteen years of age or older, to specify that the fine for soliciting in this circumstance is not more than two thousand five hundred dollars, and to specify that up to one thousand dollars of that fine may be deposited into the Victims of Human Trafficking Fund. Am. 2907.24 and 5101.87

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Joint Education Oversight Committee: Senator Gayle Manning as chair .

DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNOR

SB 144 ■ **DISABILITIES COUNCIL (Burke, D.)** To abolish the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Commission, Consumer Advisory Committee, and Governor's Council on People with Disabilities; to establish a state rehabilitation services council known as the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council; and to restore staggered terms of office for the employee members representing firefighters on the board of trustees of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund.

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger,
Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



House Activity for Monday, February 26, 2018

INTRODUCED

HB 526 ■ **SCHOOL SAFETY** (DeVitis, T., Sweeney, M.) To authorize a public or chartered nonpublic school to enter into an agreement with a volunteer law enforcement officer to patrol school premises to prevent or respond to a mass casualty event, to provide the parties with a qualified immunity from civil liability, and to provide a tax credit for volunteer service. Am. 5747.08 and 5747.98 and to enact sections 3313.94 and 5747.64

HB 527 ■ **VISITATION RIGHTS** (LaTourette, S.) To allow certain specified persons to petition the probate court for reasonable visitation with an incompetent or ward if visitation between the person and the incompetent or ward has been interfered with or denied. Am. 2111.132

HB 528 ■ **CORPSE ABUSE** (Smith, R., Rezabek, J.) To expand the penalties for abuse of corpse offenses. Am. 2927.01 and 2929.13

HB 529 ■ **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. Am. 164.05
Gongwer Coverage

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Insurance Committee: Remove Representative LaTourette; appoint Representative Lang.

DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNOR

HB 45 ■ **MONTH DESIGNATION** (Sprague, R.) To designate May as "Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month."

HB 79 ■ **FIREARMS TRAINING** (Retherford, W., Hagan, C.) To provide for firearms training for tactical medical professionals; to permit such a professional who has received that training and has been authorized by the law enforcement

agency to carry firearms while on duty; and to grant such a professional the same right to carry a concealed handgun in this state as a concealed handgun licensee.

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger,
Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Volume #87, Report #38 -- Monday, February 26, 2018

\$2.62 Billion Capital Budget Prioritizes Projects To Address Opiate Addiction, Related Issues

The General Assembly is doubling its prior financial commitments for behavioral and mental health infrastructure in the capital appropriations budget that was introduced Monday.

The bill includes \$2.62 billion in new spending on bricks-and-mortar projects as well as a yet-to-be-disclosed amount of reappropriations for ongoing capital projects approved in prior biennia. The bill covers spending in Fiscal Years 2019-2020.

Companion House and Senate measures (HB 529 and SB 266) allocate \$222 million for health and human services, developmental disabilities, mental health, addiction treatment and women's health initiative facilities over the next two fiscal years.

The fast-tracked budget, which will receive first hearings in both chambers on Tuesday, also includes \$150 million in community projects - \$20 million more than the original funding target - \$600 million for school facilities, \$514 million for local infrastructure projects and \$483 million for public colleges and universities.

The state will issue bonds to fund the spending.

The expanded health and human services support funding was added in response to the growing impact of the opiate epidemic, Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said.

"So where in the prior budgets you may have seen a few of these pop up, I think it's on the minds of a lot of people and we all recognize that these are some of the more important issues facing the state of Ohio and these are some of the things we chose to prioritize."

Some of the projects set to receive a chunk of the \$222 million are Alvis House and Maryhaven in Columbus, President Obhof said. The respective \$300,000 and \$125,000 projects would add about 260 additional treatment beds for addicts in Franklin County.

"We see these things throughout the state and not just in Franklin County, in Cuyahoga and Hamilton counties but in some of rural areas as well," Sen. Obhof said. "There are number of requests that are being funded from members throughout the state of Ohio for things like that."

Of the total allocation for such infrastructure plans, \$20 million will be provided through competitive grants, which were proposed by Gov. John Kasich. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 12, 2018)

So-called community resiliency projects that focus on expanding spaces for youth programming would receive the funding, said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton). The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and local groups will likely select the recipients.

"We recognize the need there and listened very carefully to the community," he said of the funding dedicated to combatting the opiate epidemic and related issues.

While that area of the budget saw a boost, overall capital appropriations shrunk by about \$10 million from the last budget, Sen. Obhof said. He's hopeful, however, that it will have a similar reach.

"We think that due to sound fiscal management and the hard work we put in in the main operating budget last year, we do have the capacity for the bonding and the funding of various projects throughout the state that you see in the bill," he told reporters after the legislation was introduced.

Leaders of both parties in each chamber worked together to iron out the details prior to the measure's introduction Monday, making it ripe for quick passage.

President Obhof said he expects a Senate vote on the House version - which will serve as the vehicle for the budget - in the week before spring break, which is set to begin in late March.

Local projects were brought forward by individual members for consideration while community colleges and universities created their own priority funding packages. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 22, 2017)

"This capital budget will give the legislature a tremendous opportunity to address several infrastructure and construction projects that will generate a positive return on investment for communities all across the state," Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) said in a statement. "I want to commend the members of the legislature and local leaders for their collaboration and commitment to helping improve the lives of so many Ohioans through this legislation."

The capital budget has historically drawn bipartisan support as lawmakers look to support money funneled to projects in their communities. That trend is expected to continue this year.

"As legislators, we review capital budget applications, meet with individuals and organizations and visit project sites. You can't help but become passionate about what we can do to invest in Ohio's infrastructure and improve the community," Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights) said. "Although it's unfortunate that we can't fund every much-needed community project that comes to our attention, I am happy with the progress that will be made through the capital budget."

If the capital bill process follows those of prior years, no major changes will occur during deliberations unless there are problems with the bill. The last several capital budgets passed with few if any amendments once they were introduced.

Cardinal Health Among Drug Distributors Targeted In Latest DeWine Opioid Suit

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Monday announced that he has filed a lawsuit against four drug distributors for their role in the opioid epidemic.

The lawsuit, filed in Madison County Common Pleas Court, alleges that the drug distributors were negligent in over-supplying addictive opioid prescription drugs.

"We believe the evidence will show that these companies ignored their duties as drug distributors to ensure that opioids were not being diverted for improper use. They knew the amount of opioids allowed to flow into Ohio far exceeded what could be consumed for medically-necessary purposes, but they did nothing to stop it," AG Mike DeWine said in a statement.

"And much like the drug manufacturers who continue to fail to do the right thing, these distributors are doing precious little to take responsibility for their actions and help pay for the damage they have caused."

Named in the lawsuit are McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health and its subsidiaries, AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation and Miami-Luken, Inc.

Cardinal Health in a statement said it has been cooperating to "alleviate the public health crisis and save lives" though a multi-state effort led by 40 attorneys general and a multi-jurisdictional effort in Cleveland.

"We are extremely disappointed that Attorney General DeWine chose to go outside of these established processes at this critical moment in time to file this unfounded lawsuit," the company said in a statement.

The company went on to say that it cares deeply about the opioid epidemic and that there must be work toward meaningful solutions.

"This is why we launched our Opioid Action Program which augments our substantial efforts to combat opioid abuse and is providing funds and support for take back efforts, Narcan giveaways for first responders, and grants for communities looking to find holistic solutions to this public health issue throughout Ohio," it said.

"Cardinal Health has made a significant investment in state-of-the-art controls to effectively combat the diversion of pain medications from legitimate uses. We believe this kind of effort and investment, and not baseless litigation, is the way to alleviate this problem."

The lawsuit alleges that the companies fueled the opioid epidemic by distributing enough of the drugs to fill more than 11.8 million prescriptions from 2011 to 2016, amounting to dosages that averaged more than 739 million each year.

The drug epidemic has resulted in annual damages in excess of \$1 billion, the lawsuit alleges. Those costs include medical care; treatment for infants born with opioid-related medical conditions; public safety measures; substance abuse prevention; and welfare and social services for the children of addicted parents.

The lawsuit also alleges that more than 7,000 Ohioans have died due to the opioid crisis.

The companies "have supplied and continue to supply quantities of prescription opioids in and around Ohio without taking proper measures based on their actual or constructive knowledge that individuals were consuming opioids for non-medical purposes," the lawsuit reads.

Among the remedies Mr. DeWine is seeking are punitive and compensatory damages.

This marks the second lawsuit the AG has filed against drug companies over the opioid crisis. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 31, 2017)

Nearly \$29M In State IT Funding Clears Controlling Board

Controlling Board members Monday approved more funding for state information technology projects after raising questions about performance-based contracts and the state's savings from consolidating services.

The requests from the Department of Administrative Services included one worth nearly \$24.8 million for the state's main IT services delivery line item, which has increased over the years due to the consolidation, DAS Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Leymaster told the board.

The other request, for \$4.4 million, dealt specifically with a pair of projects involving nine agencies, she said.

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) asked if the state's IT contracts have performance clauses for the timing of delivery or for the accountability of functions.

The request Monday didn't deal with specific contracts, just the appropriation changes needed to cover contract costs, Ms. Leymaster said.

"We'd be happy to see if individual contracts have the type of controls that you're asking about," she said.

Ms. Leymaster told Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) that the projects are part of a broader optimization project that has saved the state more than \$160 million since its inception.

The board also approved two significant funding requests from the Development Services Agency to support affordable housing after Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) asked about cost containment measures and access for people with disabilities.

The requests included \$13.6 million for the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to administer the Housing Development Assistance Program, and \$5.5 million for housing assistance programs across the state.

Kelan Craig, director of planning, preservation and development at the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, said the administration has worked to ensure projects are done effectively at low cost.

As for accessibility for people with disabilities, there are specific requirements for projects targeted at seniors and for permanent supportive housing developments, but not for standard affordable housing, he said.

"Let's just watch that and make sure we don't have a problem with that," Sen. Coley said.

A request by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for \$1.1 million to replace the emergency generator at Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare in Athens was approved after Sen. Coley asked about the hospital's involvement in plans to participate in peak demand emergency programs.

Stephen Wilson, legislative liaison for ODMHAS, said the state found it would only save a couple thousand dollars to participate in the utility's peak demand program, while placing strict requirements on hospital staff.

Sen. Coley said the programs can help other facilities, such as industries and schools, when the power goes down.

"Hospitals around the state are finding great benefits to these programs," he said.

In total, the board approved 82 requests for funding.

Other items approved included: (Agenda)

- \$2.9 million - Central State University - for repair and modernization of the Hallie Q. Brown Memorial Library.
- \$11.7 million - Cleveland State University - to contract for an addition project at Fenn Hall.

- \$1.9 million - Cuyahoga Community College - to buy 12.82 acres of real estate in Euclid for the expansion of the Transportation, Distribution and Logistics Academy.
- \$1 million - Adjutant General's Department - for masonry renovation and HVAC work at the Hamilton Readiness Center in Butler County.
- \$4.6 million - DAS - for administration of the Multi-Agency Radio Communication System.
- \$2.3 million - Department of Agriculture - for lab supplies and equipment.
- \$1.1 million - Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services - for emergency generator replacement at Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare in Athens.
- \$1.6 million - Bureau of Motor Vehicles - for federal grants to purchase and install document scanners and update existing computer systems to confirm commercial driver's license applicants provided proof of citizenship or permanent residency.
- \$10.5 million - Facilities Construction Commission - for master facilities plan amendments from Elida Local School District and Bloom-Carroll Local School District.

Adult Charge Stemming From Juvenile Conviction Challenged At High Court

Can a juvenile adjudication be used to satisfy an element of a crime committed as an adult?

Anthony Carnes will argue that it can't in a case the Ohio Supreme Court is set to hear Tuesday.

Mr. Carnes was charged with a third-degree felony offense of weapon-under-disability based on a 1994 juvenile adjudication. He moved to have the charge dismissed, but the trial court denied his motion.

The First District Court of Appeals upheld the trial court's decision. But Mr. Carnes argued that both court erred in their decisions.

"Simply put, juvenile adjudications are not criminal convictions and should not be viewed as such. This conclusion is reinforced by the fact that Ohio's juvenile system uses two different approaches, one mandatory and one discretionary, to transfer its most severe offenders into the adult system, and has a process to include an adult sentence with a juvenile rehabilitation for the next most serious level of offenders," his merit brief reads.

"In line with that approach, this court has prohibited juvenile adjudications from increasing punishment for subsequent adult conduct. Given that framework, it is incongruous for such adjudications to be permitted to turn what would otherwise be lawful conduct into a crime. Thus, a juvenile adjudication should not be deemed to meet an element of an offense charged against an adult."

The Juvenile Law Center and the Buckeye Firearms Association both weighed in on the case on behalf of Mr. Carnes.

"Individuals with Ohio juvenile adjudications do not fit into the long standing prohibition on the possession of firearms by felons because they simply are not felons by definition," the BFA wrote in its amicus brief.

The state, however, argues that a juvenile adjudication cannot be used to enhance a penalty, but it can be used as an element of a crime. The state also contends that if the court were to side with Mr. Carnes it would gut the state's law prohibiting the possession of a weapon under disability.

Under the law, "there are multiple means of being placed under a disability that do not include the right to a jury trial: being a fugitive from justice, being under indictment for a felony offense of violence, being under indictment for a felony drug offense, being drug dependent or in danger of drug dependence, being a chronic alcoholic, and being adjudicated mentally incompetent. Just as is the case with a juvenile adjudication, none of those situations carries a right to a jury trial - state," the state writes.

The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office has also asked the court to affirm the First District ruling.

"Persons who commit violent felony offenses are considered bad risks who should not be allowed to legally possess a firearm. The fact that a person who commits the violent felony offense as a juvenile does not make that person any less of a bad risk," it wrote in an amicus brief.

"But Ohio's weapons disability law recognizes that people can turn their lives around and become law-abiding citizens after committing a single indiscretion or even after committing a series of crimes decades ago. That person can legally possess a firearm after following the appropriate statutory remedy; but until that time, the person should not be able to possess a firearm under Ohio law."

Three district court judges will be involved in the case because Justice Sharron Kennedy, Justice Patrick Fischer and Justice Patrick DeWine have recused themselves.

Justice DeWine concurred in judgement only with the First District's opinion upholding the trial court's decision to deny the motion to dismiss the charge.

The high court is set to hear two other cases Tuesday, it reported:

- In *Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation v. Cirino*, it will hear a case involving a Bureau of Workers' compensation beneficiary challenging the electronic payment program because he is charged fees by his bank. The state argues the case must be filed in the Court of Claims.
- A Columbus attorney is facing a six-month stayed suspension for failure to keep and maintain required financial records in the case of *Columbus Bar Association v. Keating*.

Ohio Groups Debate Trump's Short-Term Health Plan Proposal

A Trump administration proposal to expand options for short-term health insurance is designed to give consumers more options in the marketplace without the regulatory burden of current plans.

Opponents say it could lead to more limited coverage and raise premiums for people on standard exchange plans.

The proposal by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, announced last week, would allow short-term, limited-duration health insurance plans to provide coverage for up to 12 months, up from the current maximum of three months.

These plans are not required to meet the federal requirements for individual health insurance, such as providing essential health benefits or coverage for people with pre-existing conditions.

"In a market that is experiencing double-digit rate increases, allowing short-term, limited-duration insurance to cover longer periods gives Americans options and could be the difference between someone getting coverage or going without coverage at all," CMS Administrator Seema Verma said in a statement.

In Ohio, the move will provide more competition in the marketplace for health insurance, said Greg Lawson, research fellow at the Buckeye Institute.

"It's not going to be a perfect fit for everybody, but for those individuals that it works for, this could be something that could work for you, and it would be a cheaper alternative than being forced into the exchange," he said in an interview.

Critics say the change will erode coverage for people who sign up for the short-term plans and drive up premiums for those who need the more comprehensive coverage of Affordable Care Act-compliant plans.

"These short-term plans are likely to be harmful in the long run," said Steven Wagner, executive director of UHCAN Ohio. "Since they may lack meaningful coverage, people may find that their health care costs are not covered or face substantial out of pocket costs. These plans are a step in the wrong direction."

A report by the Urban Institute estimated the change would lead to an increase of 2.5 million people without minimum essential health care coverage by 2019, and an increase of 18.2% in 2019 premiums for ACA-compliant nongroup insurance plans.

The changes would allow people to shop around for the coverage they want, Mr. Lawson said. The Buckeye Institute and others have criticized the ACA exchanges for placing burdensome regulations on insurers and raising premiums.

"In general, what this will allow is you can have more barebones type policies that are more affordable," he said. "I don't think this is necessarily the pathway that we would prefer to see on a permanent basis but given the fact that the affordable care act is still the law of the land, this does give some breathing space."

Mr. Wagner said those requirements ensure people have comprehensive insurance coverage. He called the latest change part of an effort to eliminate coverage requirements created under the ACA.

"The Trump Administration is eating away at the foundations of health care coverage like termites in the foundation," he said. "This change along w the ability to alter the essential health benefits weakens people's access to quality affordable health care."

Travel Trailer Maker Tops List Of Tax Credits Issued By State Panel

The Tax Credit Authority on Monday approved incentives for four projects that promise to create a total of 475 jobs and retain another 1,405 positions, the Development Services Agency reported.

The \$2.81 million in tax credits, an estimate that depends on the companies meeting their hiring goals and other criteria, are projected to help trigger \$41 million in investments and result in more than \$24 million in new payroll, according to the state.

Topping the list in terms of impacted jobs and tax credit value is the \$2.325 million incentive for **Airstream, Inc.** in the Village of Jackson Center in Shelby County.

The designer and manufacturer of travel trailers and touring coaches expects to create 280 full-time positions generating \$14.8 million in new payroll while retaining \$57.2 million in payroll with its expansion project. The TCA approved a 1.874%, nine-year Job Creation Tax Credit for the plans.

The other approved projects (estimated tax credit values) are:

Sedgwick Claims Management Services, Inc. of Hilliard (Franklin Co.). The provider of claims, productivity, managed care, risk consulting and other services expects to create 109 full-time positions generating \$4.3 million in new payroll while retaining \$13.4 million in payroll. The expansion plans attracted a tax credit of 1.31% over seven years (\$400,000).

Veeva Systems Inc. of Dublin (Franklin Co.) plans 46 new jobs, \$3.5 million in new payroll and the retention of \$2.1 million in payroll with its expansion. TCA awarded a 1.62%, seven-year tax credit for the project (\$355,000).

Modular Assembly Innovations LLC of Allen Township (Union Co.), which plans 40 new jobs, \$1.4 million in new payroll and the retention of \$7.6 million in payroll. The provider of manufacturing and modular assembly services to the automotive industry was awarded a 1.055%, six-year JCTC (\$90,000).

Kasich Declares Emergency As Flood Risks Continue

Two days after Gov. John Kasich declared a state of emergency in 17 counties, areas of Ohio are continuing to grapple with flooding.

On Saturday, the governor issued his emergency declaration in the face of flooding - particularly along the Ohio River, which was expected to crest Monday.

Although rains have stopped, flood waters linger in some areas, closing roads and posing ongoing safety risks. The National Weather Service has said flood warnings are expected to persist for several more days in the central U.S. as "numerous river systems will remain in flood stage this week."

"As the weather and flooding is expected to get worse we're staying ahead of things by taking our readiness up to the next level and declaring an emergency where we expect the worst conditions," Gov. Kasich said over the weekend. "We'll quickly add to those areas as it's needed."

Counties affected by the proclamation include: Adams, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Clermont, Columbiana, Gallia, Hamilton, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Monroe, Meigs, Muskingum, Scioto and Washington.

The state's Emergency Operations Center had been preparing for this round of flooding since at least Feb. 18. That's the day the Ohio EMA Watch Office began providing regular awareness reports multiple times a day to state, local and federal agencies.

In recent days meals have been provided to the elderly by the Department of Aging, emergency management liaisons have been dispatched to assist county-level operations centers, and swift water rescue teams have been positioned.

"Ohioans do a good job of looking out for each other and we're doing it again now also," Gov. Kasich said. "Teams at the local level are hard at work and state teams have been coordinating with them and supporting them over the past week."

Following the Kasich order, the EMA transitioned from assessment and monitoring to partial activation and the state's Joint Information Center was opened. That followed Ohio National Guard deployments to help install flood gates and a flood wall in Scioto County.

In recent days, state entities have assisted in providing sand bags and a water pump to communities in Lawrence County. A major rockslide on Monday closed a portion of a highway in that county, according to the Ohio Department of Transportation. State geologists were on the scene.

"I urge people to stay safe by staying informed, not taking any chances and checking in on your neighbors, especially seniors and families with young kids," the governor said. "Call your local city, county or Red Cross if there's anyone who needs help. We'll get through this as we always do, by working together."

At the same time, Attorney General Mike DeWine has issued several tips to steer residents away from flood-related scams that may arise.

"As people across Ohio assess the damage and start the clean-up process, we're reminding consumers to beware of scams," Mr. DeWine said. "Some con artists travel to affected communities to take advantage of people. They offer to help, but once they get your money, they're gone. After the flooding, we also could start to see flood-damaged vehicles entering the market. We just warn people to be careful."

Cyberattack Temporarily Shuts Down State Websites, Phones

The Department of Administrative Services is making modifications after a cyberattack blocked state websites and phone systems for multiple hours Sunday evening.

DAS spokesman Tom Hoyt said the attack was launched shortly after 5:30 p.m. Sunday and "was addressed quickly and remediated at approximately 9:50 p.m."

"It was not a breach - no personal information was compromised," Mr. Hoyt said.

Several accounts seemingly affiliated with the so-called "hactivist" group Anonymous appear to be taking credit for the attack on social media. Anonymous-linked users posted screenshots showing error pages that appeared when trying to access state websites.

The attack was a denial-of-service attack, which is a concerted effort in which users bombard a targeted system with requests, thereby overloading and disabling it for legitimate users.

"The attack itself was educational in the sense that we now know how this type of attack is done and we can put in filters and prepare to help us be ready if it happens again," Mr. Hoyt said. This is the first time DAS has grappled with this specific method of a denial-of-service attack.

"These types of attacks can be done in different ways so we're aware of them and prepare for them," Mr. Hoyt said. "This was conducted in a different way, but once you go through that, you learn how it's done and we can prepare for the next time."

It's not the first time the state has been faced with a cyberattack.

Nearly a dozen state websites were impacted last year after hackers posted pro-ISIS messages on state homepages. That "internet graffiti-style" attack, however, was believed to be surface-level in nature with hackers not accessing the state's servers. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 26, 2017)

Environmental Group Calls For Setback, Chemical Reporting Changes Following Well Fire

The Ohio Environmental Council is pointing to a Feb. 15 explosion and fire at a Belmont County oil well as new evidence pointing to the need for increased well setbacks.

But a leading oil and gas group is accusing the council of seeking to block industry development with its latest call for new legislation.

A horizontal well operated by XTO caught fire earlier this month, causing explosions and leading to the evacuation of residents within a one mile perimeter as the well continued to leak methane and other gasses.

XTO has said it has contracted with various companies to monitor the area and oversee cleanup operations. It has also paid to house 100 households who were displaced. Those residing beyond a half mile from the site have since been moved back into their homes.

The OEC said the incident is a "wake up call" demonstrating a need to strengthen Ohio's current law requiring horizontal wells to be located at least 100 feet from rural homes.

"What this incident demonstrates is that Ohio's current setback laws for horizontal oil and gas wells are clearly insufficient and do very little to protect communities from this new wave of oil and gas development," said Melanie Houston, director of climate programs at the Ohio Environmental Council. "Given the frequency of horizontal well pad incidents in Ohio over the past five years, it is past time for Ohio lawmakers to reconsider a safer setback distance."

The group said the incident also shows the need to examine laws requiring well operators to disclose hazardous chemicals to emergency responders. That debate was a point of contention during budget talks last year. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 14, 2017)

"State lawmakers also must close the chemical reporting loophole in Ohio law to make sure that first responders such as those responding to last week's incident can get the full accounting of chemical identities during oil and gas emergencies," Ms. Houston said.

The Ohio Oil and Gas Association, however, said 2012 legislation in that arena "created one of the most stringent regulatory programs for chemical disclosure in the nation."

That bill (SB315, 129th General Assembly) was a far-reaching energy mid-biennium review measure that strengthened requirements. But Democrats and environmental groups at the time said it didn't go far enough with its chemical disclosure provisions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2012)

"The bill required chemical disclosure to all first responders, providing access to the information that they need and allowed (the Ohio Department of Natural Resources) to ask for additional chemical information when there is an incident," said Matt Hammond, OOGA's senior vice president.

As far as the idea of increased setbacks, the organization accused OEC and its allies of attempting to use a setback increase to snuff out oil and gas development.

"We have all heard the calls for increased setback distances since 2003 and found that environmental groups have supported setback distances for the sole purpose to offend the property rights of landowners and effectively block oil and gas development," Mr. Hammond said.

Schiavoni, Williams Plan Firearm Removal Bill; Yost Unveils School Safety Plan; High Court Hears Janus Case; Kucinich Continues Gun Push...

Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) and Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) on Monday announced their intention to introduce a bill allowing for the removal of firearms from people deemed to be an imminent danger to themselves or others.

The proposal would establish an Extreme Risk Protection Order that would allow family or law enforcement to ask a court to temporarily remove firearms for up to one year.

"Family members are often the first to know when a loved one starts showing signs that they're dangerous to themselves or people around them," Sen. Schiavoni, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate, said in a statement. "Sadly, there aren't many options available to be proactive, remove weapons and prevent those moments from becoming tragedies. This bill is common sense. It provides a clear process when loved ones notice those red flags."

Five other states have similar laws. In announcing the intention to introduce the measure, the lawmakers cited Gov. John Kasich, who in a recent television interview expressed support for ERPOs.

"I am pleased to see the conversation turn and the mood shift toward sensible gun safety measures in Ohio," Sen. Williams said. "I'm also pleased to see Gov. Kasich supporting efforts to combat gun violence. We know how to reduce gun violence in America while still respecting the Second Amendment. This bill is a step forward in that direction."

School Safety: State Auditor Dave Yost on Monday rolled out a three-point school safety plan centered on securing buildings.

The attorney general hopeful's plan calls for a statewide inventory of security measures at all 5,200 school buildings across the state and a bond-backed program to modify them to create a single point of entry, install electronic zoned locking systems and add video cameras.

The final piece of the plan calls for the establishment of a training program for school staff volunteers with prior military or law enforcement experience.

"We need to protect our kids at school at least as well as we protect our politicians at work," Auditor Yost said in a statement. "This program takes the same proven tactics and technology we use in government offices-and many private businesses-and puts them to work in our schools, where our greatest treasures are."

Janus Case: A day ahead of the U.S. Supreme Court hearing oral arguments in a case that could have far-reaching implications for public sector unions, hundreds gathered on the Statehouse lawn for the "Working People's Day of Action."

The event also comes in the wake of six pieces of legislation introduced in Ohio to revise collective bargaining laws.

"The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus stands in solidarity with labor and working people," Ohio Legislative Black Caucus President and Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland) said in a statement. "Right to Work is wrong and has no place in the state of Ohio. Fair labor practices, equitable pay, representation in the workplace and building power through unity are essential to making Ohio stronger, and should be a guaranteed right to all who are willing to work."

Buckeye Institute President Robert Alt said the questioning by Justice Anthony Kennedy during oral arguments should leave union supporters concerned.

"Given how frequently Justice Kennedy is in the majority, his questions have to be a cause of concern for those seeking to continue the practice of forcing public servants to pay for union speech with which they may disagree," he said.

Gun Control: The gubernatorial campaign of Dennis Kucinich continues to put gun control in the spotlight.

In the latest move, Mr. Kucinich's running mate, Akron City Councilwoman Tara Samples, plans to introduce a measure to urge state lawmakers to pass a ban on assault weapons.

"Dennis and I, with the help of more than 2,000 grassroots volunteers, are working to convince every city council and every board of education all across Ohio to support getting these killing machines off our streets," she said in a statement. "I couldn't be more proud that my own community is about to become the first in Ohio to take this step."

New Polling: A Suffolk University/*USA Today* poll released Monday found strong support for additional gun restrictions, including 63% of respondents who want semi-automatic weapons banned.

Another 76% said that people treated for mental illness should be banned from owning firearms and 61% said stronger gun control law and background checks could prevent more mass shootings.

The poll also found that 62% believe schools should be required to have metal detectors and 58% believe there should be a requirement that schools have a armed police officer stationed on campus.

However, just 19% believe the prospects of Congress passing gun-control measures are good to excellent and 25% believe there is a fair chance for legislative action. Another 51% said the chances are poor.

"Voters see a Congress that is deaf to their wishes about remedying gun violence in the United States," said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center in Boston

The nationwide survey of 1,000 individuals, which has a margin of error of 3%, also found that President Donald Trump's approval rating stands at 38%, down from 47% one year ago.

"President Trump's job performance ratings have had several ups and downs in the past year, with last March's relatively strong showing coming in the aftermath of a well-received speech to Congress," Mr. Paleologos said. "The bump he got after signing the tax bill in December appears to have been overwhelmed in light of young people challenging him on gun issues and the investigation of Russian meddling in U.S elections."

ODP Training: The Ohio Democratic Party announced Monday that more than 110 candidates took part in its "Main Street Initiative," which provides training and support to candidates.

"What Democrats are seeing nationally, we're seeing here in Ohio, too - the unprecedented energy and enthusiasm of the grassroots is turning into record numbers of Democratic candidates running in races up and down the ballot," ODP Chairman David Pepper said in a statement. "We're proud to support our state and local candidates when they run for office, as we build our bench of great public servants. We look forward to working with our 2018 'Main Street' candidates from now through Election Day and then touting their successes once they're in office."

Governor's Appointments

State Auctioneers Commission: Theresa M. Blocher of Paris for a term beginning February 26, 2018, and ending October 9, 2020.

Board of Nursing: Lauralee S. Krabill of Sandusky and Patricia A. Sharpnack of Chardon for terms beginning February 26, 2018, and ending December 31, 2021

Supplemental Event Planner

Monday, March 5

One Ohio Now news conference on state data ahead of the State of the State Address, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, March 7

Rep. Martin J. Sweeney (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Marty, We Love You; \$1,000-\$5,000; Best Buddy; \$500; Good Pal; \$100 Friend: \$25 to Friends of Martin J. Sweeney)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.

From: Miller, Brad

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 1:29 PM

To: 'Grant, Herb'

Subject: FW: Guest Column from State Representatives John Becker and Craig S. Riedel: Right-to-Work Right Choice for Ohio, but Let Voters Decide

Hi Herb — I wanted to follow up on this. It was sent to you on a day that I was out of the office. I know this is like most of the other things we have sent, so if it would be better served as a shortened letter, please let me know. Or if the Dispatch has no intention of running, please let me know that too, so I can inform the representatives.

Thank you,
Brad Miller

From: Westlake, Libby

Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 5:02 PM

Cc: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: Guest Column from State Representatives John Becker and Craig S. Riedel: Right-to-Work Right Choice for Ohio, but Let Voters Decide

Hi Herb—

Please see the column below from Representatives Becker and Riedel regarding right-to-work legislation. Let me know if there any additional guidelines we should follow to ensure this gets printed. Thank you!

*January 26, 2018
Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134*

**Guest Column from State Representatives
John Becker and Craig S. Riedel**
Right-to-Work Right Choice for Ohio, but Let Voters Decide

Over the years, 28 states across the U.S. (including 4 of our 5 neighboring states) have enacted right-to-work laws making this a highly debated issue for Ohio. At its very core, right-to-work promotes the individual freedom of a person to choose whether they want to belong to a union or not. Currently, Ohio law allows the collective bargaining unit to force an employee to pay 'fair share fees' if they do not join the union. Not only does this make Ohio less competitive regarding job and wage growth, especially with

our neighboring states, but Ohioans are forced to give away their own hard-earned money to an entity that they may not support or want representing them.

That is why we have sponsored House Joint Resolutions 7 through 12, six resolutions that if approved by the General Assembly, would appear as constitutional amendments on Ohio's general election ballot in November 2020. We have heard from many sides about why right-to-work is right for Ohio or not, and despite many efforts to pass legislation on this issue, it still remains highly contentious.

Because of this, we have decided to let the people of Ohio decide whether Ohio should become a right-to-work state or not. By approving these resolutions, Ohioans will get to vote directly on six different variations of right-to-work law. The six constitutional amendments would be summarized as thus:

- **Private-sector right-to-work:** No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
- **Public-sector right-to-work:** Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
- **Public-sector prevailing wage:** Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
- **Public-sector paycheck protection:** Prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers' wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers' money on political activities without workers' consent.
- **Public-sector project labor agreements:** Prohibits state and local government entities from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered.
- **Public-sector union recertification:** Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units.

These six amendments cover every aspect of the right-to-work issue, allowing Ohioans to approve one or all of them. At the end of the day, we firmly believe this is the best course of action for Ohio. Right-to-work will tell the world that Ohio is open for business—increasing competition and improving our economic environment—while also protecting workers' rights.

From: The Buckeye Institute

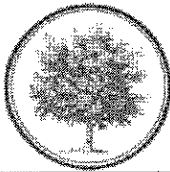
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 2:47 PM

To: Miller, Brad

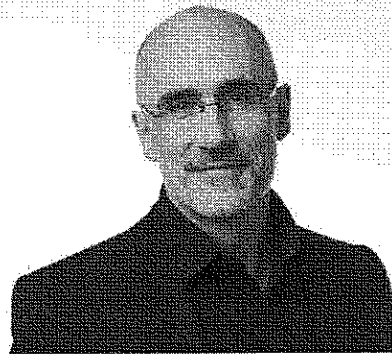
Subject: AEI President Arthur Brooks to address The Buckeye Institute luncheon March 21

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



You are cordially invited to join us for an extraordinary luncheon talk featuring American Enterprise Institute (AEI) President Arthur Brooks on Wednesday, March 21, at noon.

This is a very special event and great opportunity that you don't want to miss, so [register soon](#) as it will likely sell out. (Further details available by following registration link.)

We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Your friends at The Buckeye Institute

Register to Attend

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, nonprofit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

SafeUnsubscribe™ brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

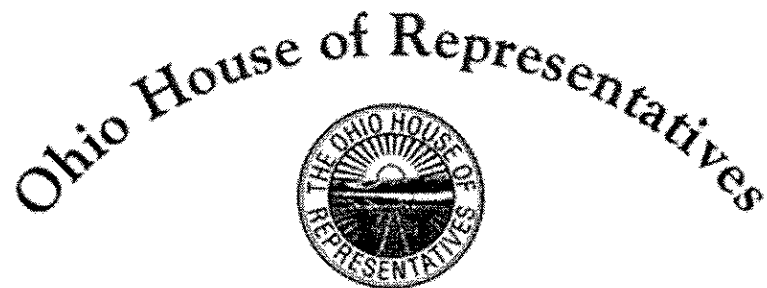
Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 5:05 PM
To: House_All
Subject: FW: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

****REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS MARCH 9, 2018 at 4PM**

Dominic Paretti
Legislative Aide to Representative Boyd
Ohio House District 09
614-644-5079

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House_All <House_All@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

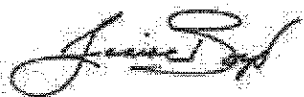
The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09

Kristin Boggs

Kristin Boggs

State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Fedor, Teresa
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 9:34 PM
To: Paretti, Dominic
CC: House_All
Subject: Re: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

Yes

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 27, 2018, at 5:05 PM, Paretti, Dominic <Dominic.Paretti@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

****REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS
MARCH 9, 2018 at 4PM**

Dominic Paretti
Legislative Aide to Representative Boyd
Ohio House District 09
614-644-5079

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House_All <House_All@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

**<image001.png>
MEMORANDUM**

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave

benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via

email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. The deadline to co-sponsor is **Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**

<image002.jpg>

Janine Boyd

State Representative, Ohio House District 09

<image003.png>

Kristin Boggs

State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 8:50 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 3/2/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS 3/2/2018



BILL WOULD REQUIRE DRIVERS TO MOVE OVER FOR GARBAGE TRUCKS

The Ohio House will consider legislation giving garbage trucks "move-over" protections in place for emergency vehicles.

NEXT PHASE OPENS IN OHIO'S \$8M OPIOID TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

Ohio launched the second stage of its global technology challenge Wednesday aimed at finding solutions to the U.S. opioid crisis.

MORE THAN 131,000 ISSUED CONCEALED CARRY LICENSES IN OHIO

Ohio's attorney general says more than 131,000 residents were issued licenses last year to carry concealed weapons.

OHIO BILL WOULD ALLOW PROTECTIVE ORDERS FOR DATING VIOLENCE

A bipartisan bill allowing victims of dating violence to seek protective orders against alleged perpetrators is on its way to Ohio Republican Gov. John Kasich.

KASICH PROPOSES 'RED FLAG' LAW, OTHER GUN CHANGES IN STATE

Gov. John Kasich on Thursday advocated a "red flag" law for Ohio, a ban on armor-piercing ammunition and other gun policy positions he says represent political consensus in a bellwether state that could fly nationally.

2 DEMOCRATS FOR OHIO OFFICES WANT OPEN REDISTRICTING PROCESS

Two Democrats seeking statewide office in Ohio are pitching a plan they say would guarantee Ohio's redistricting process for congressional districts is more transparent to the public.



FOR SCHIAVONI RUNNING MATE, DRUG CRISIS IS ALL IN THE FAMILY

Ohio's opioid epidemic is so extensive that it's struck the families of at least two of those seeking statewide office.

KASICH UNVEILS 'UNANIMOUS' PROPOSALS TO CURB GUN VIOLENCE

Saying he has to deal with the art of what's possible — what can pass the Republican-dominated General Assembly, Gov. John Kasich proposed six gun-law reforms on Thursday that he believes he can help Ohio avert some gun deaths.

CRITICS SLAM MEDICAID WORK PROPOSAL

Advocates, health-care providers and others slammed a state plan on Thursday that would require most non-disabled adults on Medicaid to work or lose their tax-funded health care.

LAWMAKERS OFFER COUNTIES \$114.5 MILLION FOR VOTING MACHINES

Counties would get nearly \$115 million in state money to replace aging voting machines in time for the 2019 election under a bill expected to pass the legislature this spring.

REP. BOGGS NEEDS HELP TO QUALIFY FOR PRIMARY BALLOT

State Rep. Kristin Boggs, D-Columbus, will need help from Republican Secretary of State Jon Husted in order to qualify to run as a write-in candidate for the May primary.

MAYOR GINTHER ENDORSES CORDRAY FOR GOVERNOR

Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther on Thursday endorsed Richard Cordray, former Ohio attorney general and former director of the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, in the Democratic primary for governor.

EDITORIAL: WORKPLACE DRUG USE DEMANDS ATTENTION

Drugs and workplaces don't mix. That's common sense, but now employers have more reasons to take a hard line against employee drug use.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

MORE THAN 131,000 OHIOANS GET PERMITS TO CARRY CONCEALED GUNS

More than 131,000 Ohioans got their licenses last year to carry concealed weapons — 77,281 new ones and 54,064 renewals, according to Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine.

THE PLAIN DEALER

\$114.5 MILLION PROPOSED FOR NEW OHIO VOTING MACHINES

Ohio counties could soon get some money from the state to help replace aging voting equipment.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD TO FOCUS ON OHIO RACES FOR U.S. SENATE AND GOVERNOR

Planned Parenthood political organizations announced Thursday that they'll spend at least \$20 million in this year's elections, with a particular focus on gubernatorial and Senate races in Ohio and seven other states.

OHIO GOV. JOHN KASICH PROPOSES 6 GUN POLICY CHANGES

Tightening background checks for gun buyers and allowing "red flag" protection orders were among six gun violence policy recommendations made Thursday by a bipartisan panel assembled by Gov. John Kasich.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HASN'T DECIDED WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN OPIOID LITIGATION

As U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions promised, the Justice Department on Thursday evening filed a "statement of interest" in the swath of lawsuits being heard in Cleveland that accuse drug manufacturers and distributors of heavily contributing to the nation's opioid epidemic.

THE ENQUIRER

JOHN KASICH'S 'COMMONSENSE' GUN CONTROL PLAN: WOULD NEW OHIO GUN LAWS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

John Kasich wants to change Ohio's gun laws, touting support for "commonsense" measures from a handful of Republicans and Democrats.

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

KASICH PROPOSES GUN REFORM MEASURES

Gov. John Kasich on Thursday unveiled a package of proposed gun law reforms to prohibit the sale of armor-piercing ammunition and third-party "strawman" sales of guns to people prohibited from having them.

PROPOSAL WOULD FUND NEW VOTING MACHINES

Ohio would borrow \$114.5 million to help counties replace an aging fleet of voting machines in time by next year under a bill reworked Thursday.

EDITORIAL: RIGHT-TO-WORK INFRINGES ON EMPLOYERS

Is it too much to ask for some consistency from time to time?

EDITORIAL: DENNIS KUCINICH LEADING ON GUN ISSUE

Successful political campaigns sometimes catch a breeze they never counted on because of some unexpected occurrence that changes public attitudes between the time the candidates filed and the time the voters vote.

The Vindicator

SCHIAVONI GETS THE MAHONING DEMOCRATIC ENDORSEMENT FOR GOVERNOR

When it came to endorsing a candidate for governor, the Mahoning County Democratic Party overwhelmingly went for one of its own.

From: The Buckeye Institute

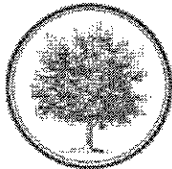
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 1:14 PM

To: Miller, Brad

Subject: ICYMI: Buckeye's Rea Hederman in National Review, Can States Repair Obamacare's Damage?

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

In National Review, Buckeye's Rea S. Hederman Jr. and the Galen Institute's Doug Badger call on Congress and the administration to give states more latitude to fix their health insurance markets, which is the central recommendation of their new **Mercatus Center** study.

NATIONAL REVIEW

Can States Repair Obamacare's Damage?

National Review
By Doug Badger and Rea Hederman
March 2, 2018

Washington broke insurance markets. It should let states try to fix them.

Having failed to repeal the Affordable Care Act, congressional Republicans now want to create a new **corporate welfare program** to save it.

Here's a better idea: Congress and the administration should give states more latitude to clean up the mess - at no additional cost to the federal government.

That is a central recommendation of a new **Mercatus Center study** that we co-authored. Our study examined congressional and federal proposals that surfaced throughout last year in the broader context of the star-crossed "repeal and replace" debate.

The most promising ideas to repair broken insurance markets emanated not from Washington, but from the states.

That should surprise no one. States have traditionally been the primary regulators of health insurance, as they are for other forms of insurance. Obamacare rests on the hubris that federal bureaucrats could regulate health-insurance markets better than could states.

Federal intervention has proven a mixed blessing or a mixed curse, depending on your point of view. Insurance coverage is more accessible to those with chronic medical conditions who don't have employer-sponsored insurance and don't qualify for Medicare or Medicaid. More low-income people have insurance today than in 2013. If you spend **\$1.8 trillion** on Medicaid expansions and subsidies, you're bound to help some.

But others are hurting. Premiums for non-group coverage **more than doubled** between 2013 (the year before Obamacare took effect) and 2017 and increased by another **37 percent** this year. Consumers, like many insurers, have responded by abandoning those markets. The individual market **began to shrink** in 2016, a contraction that appears to have accelerated last year.

Yet the green shoots of state innovation continue to sprout from Obamacare's ruins. The question is whether Washington will nurture or uproot them.

Our study chronicles how federal legislative efforts to repeal Obamacare gradually evolved to allow more state control over how federal resources would be directed and more latitude to deviate from the law's stultifying regulatory regime.

At the same time, the Trump administration **encouraged** states to take full advantage of an obscure **provision** of the Obamacare statute that permits the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to grant waivers to states to sidestep some of the law's most onerous requirements.

States responded aggressively to the administration's overtures. A number of proposals emerged, each of which set forth cutting-edge ways to make health insurance more affordable, especially to those who don't qualify for federal subsidies.

Most importantly, states had to show that their waivers wouldn't result in additional federal spending. Instead, their programs had to allocate federal dollars more efficiently, reducing premiums and, as a consequence, federal premium-assistance subsidies, holding the federal government harmless.

Alaska, unlike other states, won federal approval for its "reinsurance" waiver. They finance it partially with state funds and partially with federal money that would otherwise have been paid directly to insurers on behalf of low-income enrollees. The results are promising. Premiums for the lowest-priced Bronze plan in the state fell by **25 percent** in 2018. In other states, premiums for such plans rose by a median of 16.4 percent.

Congressional Republicans are learning the wrong lessons from Alaska. The insurance lobby has convinced GOP lawmakers that state reinsurance programs would work even better if they weren't budget-neutral to the federal government. The more the feds **spend**, lobbyists argue, the more consumers will save.

Our study suggests that giving states more control over their markets (rather than more money for insurance companies) is the far better path. Allowing them more latitude to deviate from the ACA's stringent structure can help make insurance more affordable, while still protecting consumers.

Unfortunately, many states are feeling burned. The Trump administration invited them to innovate, then declined to approve many of their innovative proposals. The administration should restore that trust by rescinding Obama-era guidelines that impose counterproductive limitations on waivers and taking additional steps to streamline the waiver approval process.

Congress also should consider building on a legislative **proposal** by Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.) and Bill Cassidy (R., La.) that would empower states to implement consumer-centered health-care reform. The Graham-Cassidy measure would provide federal resources to states instead of to insurance companies and task states with designing programs to make individual health insurance affordable to their residents, regardless of their income or medical condition.

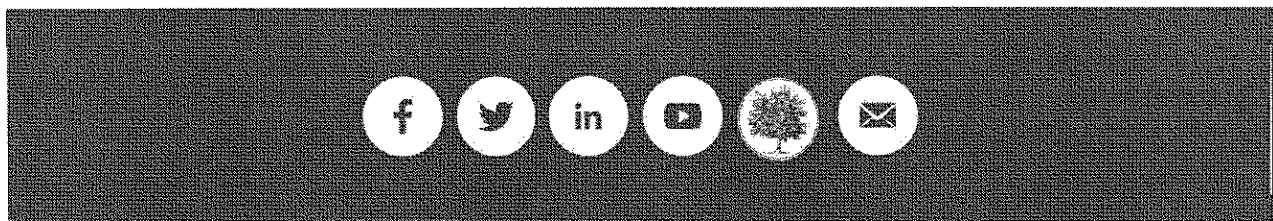
At the very least, Congress should refrain from spending additional federal money on reinsurance arrangements that states can implement in a budget-neutral way. Like the administration, it should instead work to make the Obamacare waiver process more friendly to states.

Waivers give states authority to do what Congress has failed to do: calm the market turbulence that Congress itself created with Obamacare's enactment. Congress and the administration should facilitate the use of that authority.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

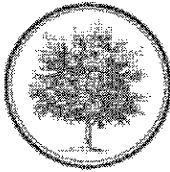
[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 7:01 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: More Than \$18 Million Spent on The Buckeye Institute's Top 10 List of Worst Capital Budget Requests

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

More Than \$18 Million Spent on The Buckeye Institute's Top 10 List of Worst Capital Budget Requests

Ohio's Capital Budget Riddled with More Than \$85 Million in Pork Spending

Columbus, OH -- Today, **The Buckeye Institute** unveiled its Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018, which total more than \$18 million in spending. Buckeye's review of the capital budget also found more than \$85 million in pork barrel or highly localized projects that should be paid for with private donations or through local efforts.

"As our Top 10 list shows, once again, Ohio's capital budget is riddled with pork projects that benefit narrow local interests and not larger state needs. If these, and other pork projects in the budget, were funded using local or private dollars, as they should be, Ohio could have at least \$85 million more that it could spend on pressing state priorities, save, or better yet, return to taxpayers," said Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye

Institute. "Policymakers should do more to heed our call to focus the capital budget on **strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructure** and move away from projects of predominately local interest. Simply put, it is hard to see how it benefits someone in Youngstown for Cincinnati to get a soccer stadium or how people in Cleveland benefit from renovations to COSI."

Buckeye's Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018

- **\$400,000** to build government owned broadband networks in North Olmsted, Southern Miami Valley, and Fairborn. The Buckeye Institute has shown these networks would be **better built by the private sector**;
- **\$5 million** for the **COSI Connection Corridor**, a retail and restaurant space, in Columbus;
- **\$1 million** for two **Columbus Zoo exhibits**, which is partially funded by Franklin County property taxes;
- **\$1 million** for an **atrium at the North Market** that will connect it to the 35-story office and residential Market Tower;
- **\$800,000** for six splash pads around the state;
- **\$2.5 million** to expand the **Cleveland Museum of Natural History**;
- **\$1.3 million** to renovate the **Blossom Music Center in Cuyahoga Falls**;
- **\$4 million** for a **new Major League Soccer stadium in Cincinnati**. The money will only be released if Cincinnati is awarded an MLS expansion team;
- **\$1.2 million** for renovations to Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park; and
- **\$1 million** for renovations to the **Toledo Museum of Art**.

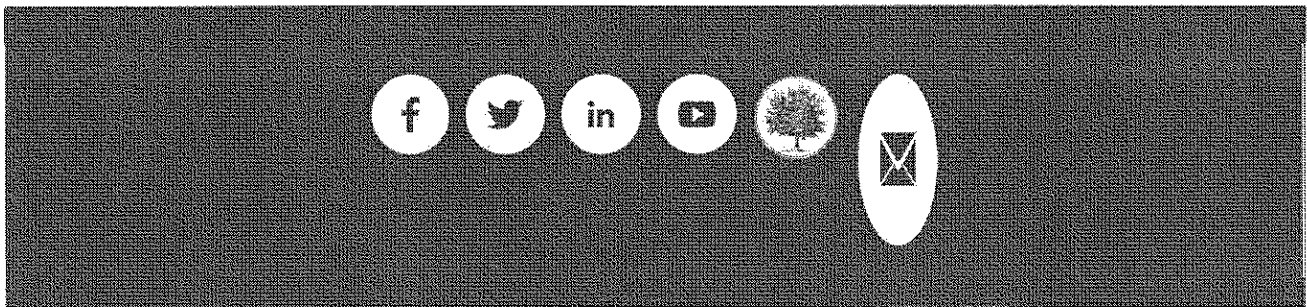
In its report in *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, Buckeye outlined three principles to guide policymakers - constrain the growth of state government, eliminate corporate and special interest welfare, and focus spending on the core functions of state government. The Buckeye Institute also urged policymakers to use the 2018 capital budget to strengthen Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructure.

A review of the capital budget shows that more than \$1 billion is being used to strengthen Ohio's physical infrastructure and there is no money in the capital budget being used to strengthen Ohio's democratic infrastructure.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

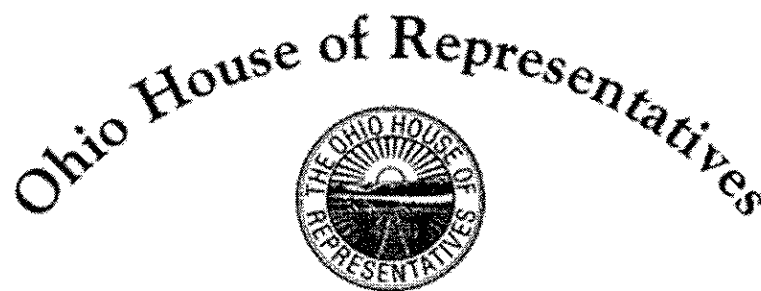
[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Finlay, Serena
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 11:11 AM
To: Paretti, Dominic
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS THIS FRIDAY AT 4PM



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption,

or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09

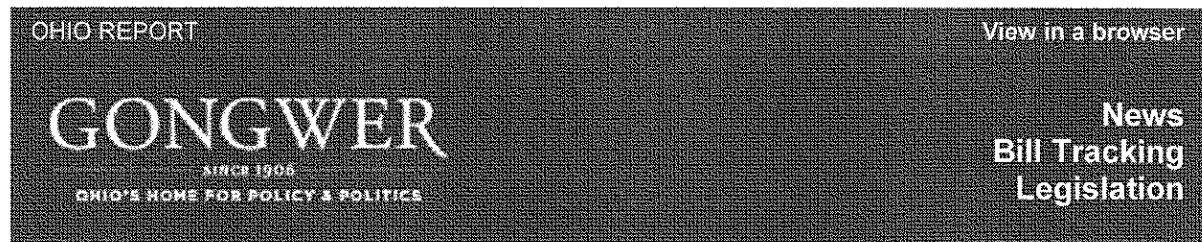


Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 6:35 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, March 5, 2018
Attachments: 180305dayplan.htm; Mar5.htm

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please unsubscribe



OHIO REPORT MONDAY, MARCH 5

Children Services Rule To Get Second Look After Concerns Raised At JCARR

Report Outlines Ohio's Rankings Ahead Of Kasich's Address

Lawmaker Looks To Crack Down On Theft In Office

Opioid Prescriptions Fall For Fifth Straight Year, Pharmacy Board Reports

DeWine Sues Monsanto, Crew SC Operator/Investor And MLS

Planned Updates To Give Farmers New Tool In Curbing Phosphorus Runoff

House District 83: Former Nurse, Business Leader Face Off In GOP Primary

Rover, OEPA Clash Over Landslides, Detected Chemical Traces

New Member Profile: Rep. McClain Follows In Father's Footsteps

Politics Notebook: Buckeye Institute Highlights Capital Budget 'Pork'; Taylor Picks Up Endorsement; Schiavoni Releases New Ad; Balderson Touts War Chest

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

CALENDARS

Day Planner

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

[View as a Web Page](#)

Copyright 2018, Gongwer News Service/Ohio

17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215

All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)

Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, March 6

Legislative Committees

Senate Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Beagle, B., 466-6247), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of M. Beth Trombold, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and Gregory Murphy, Power Siting Board

HB 478 **WIRELESS SERVICES** (Smith, R., LaTourette, S.) To modify the law regarding wireless service and the placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 10 a.m.

HB 529 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 508 **OHIO CORPS** (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.) To establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project and to make an appropriation. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 378 **BROADBAND GRANTS** (Smith, R., Cera, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation. (7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Schaffer, T., 466-8100), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.

SB 226 **TAX HOLIDAY** (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Agriculture & Rural Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Hill, B., 644-6014), Rm. 121, 1 p.m.

HB 501 **VETERINARY TITLES** (LaTourette, S., Huffman, S.) To change professional title of "registered veterinary technician" to "registered veterinary nurse." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HR 298 **ALFALFA PRODUCTS** (Sprague, R., Hill, B.) To recognize the existence of two alfalfa products in light of the recent action of the Ingredient Definition Committee of the Association of American Feed Control Officials. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m.

SB 266 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Oelslager, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make

reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30,2020. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

SB 225 **BROADBAND GRANTS** (Schiavoni, J., Eklund, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 246 **STUDENT REMOVAL** (Lehner, P., Manning, G.) To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre- kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 329 **PYRAMID SCHEMES** (Pelanda, D.) To modify the law governing pyramid promotional schemes. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

House Session (Committee Record), Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357, Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Fritsche Theater, Otterbein University, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville, 7 p.m.

- Joint convention for the Governor's State of the State address

Agency Calendar

Small Business Advisory Council, Women's Small Business Accelerator's ThinkSpace, 24 Westerview Dr., Westerville, 10 a.m.

Public Facilities Commission, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 3:30 p.m.

Event Planner

OhioLINK, Ohio Department of Higher Education discussion on textbook affordability and open educational resources, Otterbein University, Towers Hall, Westerville, 10 a.m.

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for McColley)

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Granville Township) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Chair \$350 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail



Volume #87, Report #43 -- Monday, March 5, 2018

Children Services Rule To Get Second Look After Concerns Raised At JCARR

The Department of Job and Family Services will refile a proposed rule dealing with child abuse and neglect investigations after agencies said it would lead to more cases and higher costs.

The Public Children Services Association of Ohio told members of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review Monday that the proposed rules would prevent agencies from making "collateral contacts" before deciding to accept a case. That means they would not be able to check certain details, such as whether a parent was in drug treatment, before opening an investigation.

ODJFS argued the county agencies have long been advised in state guidance not to do so. Contacting other people about a potential child abuse or neglect case before contacting the parent can jeopardize the parent's privacy.

The proposed rule changes were designed in part to incorporate revisions to the federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which require more mandatory reporting in cases where children are born addicted to drugs.

The department included the provision preventing collateral contacts before cases to reinforce provisions that have been in guidance for more than a decade, Carla Carpenter, deputy director for the Office of Families and Children at ODJFS, told JCARR.

"The change to the rule merely echoes the guidance that we have been providing since 2005," she said.

Mary Wachtel, director of public policy for the PCSAO, said the rules would make it harder for agencies to screen potential cases by preventing them from following up for more information on referrals before opening an official investigation. It could lead to agencies opening investigations for children who aren't being neglected or abused, opening cases that would require home visits and other costs, she said.

"We are talking about a judicious, somewhat limited use of pre-screening collateral contacts," she said.

Other states allow for collateral contacts before cases are screened in, she said. Those states often have limits, such as that the only people to be contacted would be mandatory reporters of abuse or neglect, such as medical providers.

Ms. Wachtel suggested the department convene a stakeholder group to work out a solution.

"There is a fix here," she said. "We respectfully request that the rules be withdrawn to give time for a substantive discussion and consideration."

The department consulted with stakeholders before drafting the rule, Ms. Carpenter said.

Agencies are given 24 hours to gather information from internal sources, such as if the parent has had previous contact with the child welfare system, and to work back with the person referring the case, she said.

In many cases, particularly those involving drug abuse under the CARA provisions, the person making the referral is a medical professional, Ms. Carpenter said. In those cases, the provider can obtain a release of medical records from the parent to demonstrate that the parent has a drug treatment care plan, for example.

Lawmakers pressed the department on what would happen if the person making the referral was not a medical provider.

"How can you get a written release when you're not allowed to make a collateral contact?" Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) asked.

The agencies would be able to look at the information they have and to ask follow-up to the person referring the case, Ms. Carpenter said. The rules follow the same procedure as guidance in place now.

"They essentially would be making that decision the same way they do today," she said.

JCARR Chair Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) asked how many counties are not complying with the guidelines.

Ms. Carpenter said the department wasn't aware of deviation from the guidance until recently.

Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) said the agency indicated the rule change would have no fiscal effect for the state or for counties, but it could increase the number of cases agencies take on.

The department said the change only codified what was expected to be standard practice, and increases weren't anticipated, Ms. Carpenter said.

"We have a duty as children services agencies to respond to reports that require our attention," she said. "We don't have control over what comes through our front door."

JCARR members caucused for about 45 minutes on the issue, after which ODJFS officials said they would refile the rule pending further discussions with stakeholders.

Report Outlines Ohio's Rankings Ahead Of Kasich's Address

While the state comes in above national averages for the number of residents with health insurance, students enrolled in Pre-K, and structurally sound bridges, it is lagging behind in a number of other areas, a new report shows.

One Ohio Now, a coalition of more than 100 health and human service organizations, labor unions and advocacy groups, released its third annual State of Ohio report on Monday. It shows Ohio's rankings in 16 areas encompassing health, education, the economy and equality.

State Director Gavin DeVore Leonard said it's important that Ohioans have a full picture of how the state is doing before the governor delivers his annual State of the State address on Tuesday.

"Unfortunately, what typically happens with the State of the State is sort of cherry picking the things that make you sound the best, the things you feel like you have the most likelihood of succeeding on in the future, and then often times sort of glazing over the things that are really at the foundation of what's happening, particularly in a place like Ohio, where there is just no getting around it, we are struggling. We're having a hard time keeping up," he said during a Statehouse press event.

Gov. John Kasich and those close to him haven't divulged what his speech will entail, but he told reporters last week that it will be "odd" and "different" than in past years. Being his last SOTS address, he's expected to recap his accomplishments while in office and focus on how he's helped to change state operations during his tenure. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 2, 2018)

Responding to the One Ohio Now report, his spokesman, Jon Keeling, touted the impacts the governor's leadership has had on the state over the last seven years.

"Jobs are up. Wages are growing. More Ohioans have health coverage. Support for K-12 education is at record levels. Poverty is the lowest in nearly a decade. We're taking better care of the vulnerable and those who live in the shadows. And Ohioans are wearing our colors with pride in ways this state hasn't seen in a long time," he said.

"The governor has set a new standard for leadership here in Ohio, and if those values are continued the stage is set for even more progress long after he's gone."

In addition to showing where the state ranks nationally, the report also compares last year's stats to this year's. As infant mortality, overdose deaths and poverty got worse in Ohio in 2017, the state has improved in the areas of college tuition, home foreclosures and hunger.

Despite improvements in some categories, it shouldn't be overlooked that Ohio still ranks at the bottom of states, Mr. DeVore Leonard said.

Higher investments in underperforming areas, such as K-12 and programs combatting hunger could save the state billions of dollars in the long term because Ohioans would be better off, he said.

Especially in K-12, where spending on an inflationary basis has been stagnant since 2002, it's "hard to be a recipe for success," he said.

"We believe that this can be solved and that's actually what the data shows when you look at what's happening around the country," Mr. DeVore Leonard said. "We're nervous that what's happening is that the legislature and the governor are essentially ignoring what the data tells us about how to move our state. They're ignoring what the data tells us about how we should actually get fit and get strong here in Ohio."

To find the funding to make needed investments, he suggested the state repeal a controversial small business tax cut and increase income tax rates for the state's wealthiest.

Although Gov. Kasich has been a champion of eliminating personal income taxes, Mr. DeVore Leonard said a recent softening of his policy stances gives advocates hope that he could be swayed by the data in the report.

"Over the past several weeks and the last few years we've seen that the governor has shown a willingness to reconsider when the facts are just too clear to overcome," he said, citing the governor's support of Medicaid expansion and gun policy proposals.

Mr. DeVore Leonard was joined at the rollout of the report by Trina Payne, executive director of the Ross County Community Action Commission, small business owner Dan Heck, and Vincent Johns Jr. with Faith in Public Life.

Ms. Payne said she's most concerned about the rise in drug overdose deaths in Appalachia - something One Ohio Now tracked for the first time this year.

"Data shows that we must invest in our future as a state to ensure that these numbers decrease and families and communities are given resources to be successful," she said.

Lawmaker Looks To Crack Down On Theft In Office

Public officials who get caught with their hands in the cookie jar would soon face steeper penalties under recently introduced legislation.

The proposal (SB 268) sponsored by Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) would establish first- and second-degree felony offenses for theft in office.



Sen. Wilson

Under current law, theft in office of any amount is limited to a third-degree felony that carries a maximum sentence of three years in prison.

The proposal would change the law to mirror existing penalties for theft. A theft in office of between \$150,000 and \$750,000 would result in a second-degree felony charge that carries a maximum sentence of up to eight years in prison.

Sen. Wilson said the legislation came about after conversations with State Auditor Dave Yost.

"We have a different set of standards for theft when it is someone in office, and in my estimation it shouldn't be," he said in an interview.

A theft of more than \$750,000 would result in a first-degree felony charge, making the offender eligible for a maximum prison sentence of 11 years.

In addition, the measure would allow courts to include the cost of a forensic audit in a restitution order when the victim is a public entity.

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Maumee) has introduced legislation (HB 391) to include the cost of accounting done to determine the extent of an economic loss for restitution purposes. It was recently amended to limit the amount of restitution to be granted for accounting or auditing costs to be reasonable and not exceed the value of the property stolen or damaged.

Sen. Wilson said he would be open to limiting the auditing costs that can be recouped, but wants to ensure that the public is made whole.

"I am open to that but my main concern is that the public not pay and the person who is audited and found guilty has to pay the costs," he said.

Sen. Wilson believes the measure will be well received in the legislature.

"I think it's so logical it will pass unanimously," he said.

Rep. Robert Cupp (R-Lima) is expected to introduce companion legislation in the lower chamber.

The proposal would also bar those convicted of theft in office from serving in a position of public trust.

"Theft in office is a severe crime that warrants an equally severe punishment," Auditor Yost said in a statement.

Opioid Prescriptions Fall For Fifth Straight Year, Pharmacy Board Reports

Doctors in Ohio prescribed fewer opioids in 2017, continuing an ongoing trend, according to data released Monday by the State Board of Pharmacy.

It was the fifth year in a row the number of opioid prescriptions reported to the state's Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System fell.

There were 568 million opioid doses dispensed to Ohio patients in 2017, the report found, down from 631 million in 2016 and 28.4% from an all-time high of 793 million in 2012.

There were 9.3 million total prescriptions dispensed, down from 10.1 million in 2016 and down from a high of 12.6 million in 2012.

"Ohio has one of the most comprehensive and aggressive approaches in the country to tackling the opioid epidemic," Pharmacy Board Executive Director Steven W. Schierholt said in a statement. "Through improvements to OARRS, new prescribing rules and guidelines, shuttering pill mills and aggressive regulatory action against unscrupulous prescribers, the state is making considerable progress in reducing the supply of prescription opioids and other controlled substances that can be abused or diverted."

The OARRS system saw more than 88 million patient reports requested, along with an 88% decrease in the number of people engaged on doctor shopping, the board reported.

"It is widely accepted that prescription opioid abuse often progresses to the use of heroin and other illicit drugs. That is why Ohio's efforts to reduce exposure to prescription opioids are essential to combatting this public health crisis," said Tracy Plouck, director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

The report also found a decrease in the number of prescribers and patients receiving opioid prescriptions. The patient total dropped to just below 2 million, after topping 3 million in 2012. The number of prescribers also fell to just over 55,100, from a high of nearly 66,650 in 2012.

The number of benzodiazepines dispensed to patients also fell, dropping to 233 million solid doses from 254 million in 2016 and 297 million in 2012.

The report also tracked the number of opioid doses prescribed for acute pain, a recent point of emphasis for the state, which has limited the supply doctors can prescribe.

The number of doses for acute pain fell to just under 17 million in 2017, from a high of 31.2 million in 2012. The average prescription also fell from 8.37 days to 7.1 days.

County-level data is also available from the Board of Pharmacy.

The Ohio State Medical Association said doctors have been working to reduce the number of opioid painkillers given to patients.

"Ohio physicians for this entire decade have dedicated themselves to being part of the solution to the opioid epidemic which has gripped our state and we're seeing the positive effects of that commitment," OSMA spokesman Reggie Fields said in a statement. "Through better pain management treatment efforts and clearer state rules and guidelines, physicians are better equipped to make appropriate decisions when it is necessary to prescribe an opioid."

The OSMA pointed to its Smart Rx program, designed to educate prescribers about the safe use of opioids.

"Still, more work needs to be done to reduce the number of opioids dispensed and Ohio physicians remain committed to providing high-quality medical care that is safe and in the best interest of patients," he said.

DeWine Sues Monsanto, Crew SC Operator/Investor And MLS

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Monday announced the filing of two lawsuits - one against a multinational agrochemical company and another designed to halt the possible move of the Columbus Crew.

Filed in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court, Mr. DeWine accuses Monsanto of producing and selling polychlorinated biphenyls from 1929 to 1977 despite knowing the risk the chemical compound posed to humans.

"Ohioans deserve to enjoy their natural resources without contamination from these toxic chemicals, and we believe Monsanto should be held responsible for the damage it caused," the gubernatorial candidate said in a statement. "Our goal in taking this action is to protect Ohio, its citizens, and its natural resources."

The company did not respond to a request for comment on the lawsuit by publication time.

PCBs were used in paints, inks, caulks, sealants, lubricants, electrical equipment and carbonless copy paper, according to the lawsuit.

The chemical compound builds up in living things and contaminates the food chain. In humans, PCBs are associated with cancer, skin and eye disorders, reduced birth weight and liver damage.

The contamination has also been found in fish, soil, plants and the air, the lawsuit alleged.

Despite learning of the toxicity of the chemical in the 1930, the company continued to use the product, according to the lawsuit, which alleges Monsanto was negligent and created a public nuisance through its manufacture, distribution and sale of PCBs.

The lawsuit seeks compensation and damages to investigate and remove PCBs from the state's natural resources.

Crew Lawsuit: Mr. DeWine also filed a lawsuit against Precourt Sports Ventures and Major League Soccer to stave off the soccer club's move to Austin.

The lawsuit is based on the "the Art Modell law," which states that an Ohio professional sports team that uses a "tax-supported facility" and receives financial assistance from the state or a political subdivision cannot relocate without an agreement with the political subdivision. It also must give the political subdivision or any group of individuals who reside in the area an opportunity to buy the team.

Among the allegations in the lawsuit is that the franchise accepted \$5 million in state funds for improvements to parking facilities, the land on which its home stadium sits is exempt from property taxes and the land is leased at below-market rate.

"Loyal Crew fans in Columbus have invested their time and loyalty in this team, and they have allowed the Crew SC to capitalize from financial incentives paid for by their tax dollars. I am left with no other choice than to file this suit to ensure our laws are followed," Mr. DeWine said.

The franchise did not return a call seeking comment by publication time.

AG DeWine was joined in the lawsuit by the city of Columbus.

"Just as importantly, the team plays in a taxpayer-supported facility, and Precourt Sports Ventures and Major League Soccer have accepted financial assistance from the state of Ohio and the City of Columbus. State law provides us with this protection," Mayor Andrew Ginther said.

The lawsuit, filed in Franklin County Common Pleas Court, was the brainchild of Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington). (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 6, 2017)

"I am very pleased that our state's top law enforcement officer is vigorously enforcing longstanding Ohio law," he said in a statement. "The Crew SC is our team. Our town. Neither the MLS or Precourt Sports Ventures can operate above Ohio law."

Planned Updates To Give Farmers New Tool In Curbing Phosphorus Runoff

Upcoming improvements to a key tool could provide farmers with more real-time, actionable data on phosphorus runoff coming from their farms.

Called the Ohio Phosphorus Risk Index, the resource is facilitated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is soon slated for a host of upgrades that farmers and environmental groups in Ohio say will provide one more asset toward curbing phosphorous runoff.

"The idea is you'll put in real actual data and so you will get really specific information then on how to make use of that data," Ohio Farm Bureau spokesman Joe Cornely said in an interview. "And that's crucial because every farm is different - the soil type, the management practices, the type of nutrients."

The tool is aimed at assisting farmers in gauging their risk for phosphorus runoff. That runoff can degrade surface water quality and contributed to harmful algal blooms.

"Providing farmers with tools to be more efficient and environmentally conscious will help their businesses and their watershed," said Peter Bucher, water resources director for the Ohio Environmental Council. "Further identifying what works best at reducing nutrient runoff will allow more farmers to implement the appropriate practices for their property."

The new index is years in the making and is thanks to a project led by Elizabeth Dayton, a researcher in Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The project was funded through a \$1 million USDA Conservation Innovation Grant and \$1 million in matching donations from Ohio farmer groups.

"The index provides a long-term, average estimate of field-scale phosphorus loss based on farmer specific inputs," Ms. Dayton said. "It gives farmers the ability to compare crop management scenarios and evaluate changes in phosphorus runoff, allowing them to prioritize time and resources when making management decisions."

The tool also helps put Ohio's goal to reduce phosphorus levels in Lake Erie by 40% by 2025 within reach, Ms. Dayton said. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 13, 2017)

"The index quantifies how voluntary changes in agricultural practices contribute to achieving target phosphorus runoff reduction goals," she added. "If you multiply that by the millions of crop acres in Ohio, the 40% reduction target appears achievable."

Mr. Cornely said solving the issue of phosphorus levels will "take a whole toolbox."

"And this is one more tool to go in that box," he said. "So when you look at this as it's employed in conjunction with other tools - some that exist, some still being in development - this is one good piece of that arsenal we need to fix the problem."

After harmful algal bloom activity in 2017 tied the third worst season on record, the United States Environmental Protection Agency is moving to reconsider whether Lake

Erie's western basin should be classified as impaired. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 22, 2018)

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has touted record spending on water quality projects in 2017, although advocates said more resources are needed. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 27, 2017)

House District 83: Former Nurse, Business Leader Face Off In GOP Primary

Republican contenders for the 83rd House District seat each say they can bring a unique perspective to the General Assembly thanks to their respective expertise in the medical and business fields.

Cheryl Buckland, a member of the Ohio Republican Party's State Central and Executive Committee, and Jon Cross, CEO of the Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance, are vying to succeed Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay), who is running for state treasurer.

Ms. Buckland, 63, was appointed to the ORP's leadership committee in 2013 and has been elected twice since then. A self-described "non-traditional candidate," she's spent four decades working at skilled nursing facilities, teaching nursing students and operating her own extended care facility.

"We have not had a nurse in the General Assembly since 2010," Ms. Buckland said. "With all due respect, we have a lot of people making healthcare decisions without a healthcare background.... I feel I can be a voice for every healthcare discipline."

Mr. Cross, 38, has a background in commercial real estate. He's held the top job at the Hardin County chamber since 2014 and before that spent several stints dabbling in politics in Kansas, California and Texas. In addition to some northeast Ohio campaigns, he also spent a two-year span as an advance man for then-California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

It's his current role, however, that he says gives him an up close look at Ohio's competitiveness with other states and places him on the front lines of drawing and keeping businesses in the Buckeye State.

"Every day as an economic development director, I'm responsible for helping to attract new businesses to our community and our region and helping existing companies with their current demands," Mr. Cross said. "So I think I bring a unique perspective to understanding what it takes to attract a business to Ohio or keep a business open and successful in Ohio."

When it comes to the forthcoming race for House speaker shaping up between Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford), both candidates declined to publicly weigh in at this point.

"Right now that's my focus: the primary," Ms. Buckland said. "I know both the gentlemen and I'm happy to make a declaration of support when that's necessary."

And although he said he's met with both speaker candidates, Mr. Cross echoed that sentiment. "My philosophy has been I have to win my race first," he said.

But there are plenty of other areas in which the candidates remain at odds. Mr. Cross in particular has questioned whether his opponent shares true conservative principles.

"I'm a proud Republican who supports our president," Mr. Cross said. "I'm a strong pro-life advocate. I will do anything I can to help save and protect human life. I don't believe my opponent is."

Ms. Buckland denied any claim that she doesn't support life. Still, she said her medical background has given her the ability to emotionally detach from the issue.

"As a health professional I've been trained to put my personal feelings aside and look at what is in the best interest of the patient," Ms. Buckland said. "When we look at issues that create such an emotional response in people what I can do is come to the table and get pragmatic answers. I support life, I respect death but I'm also very pragmatic and an objective thinker."

Although she supports life in healthcare and abortion-related matters, she also questioned whether politicians have inserted themselves too far into the patient-doctor relationship.

She lists her priorities if elected as advocating for farmers, steering health policy and supporting efforts to curb the opioid epidemic - an issue she saw firsthand through the addiction of her grandson. She described herself as an "out-of-the-box thinker" who can bring a new perspective to the drug fight.

"I know what I know and what I know I know very well but I'm not an expert in everything," Ms. Buckland said. "I would like to be a voice when we look at our entitlement programs - not unlike the drug crisis - and say are we spending the right dollars in the right places?"

She and her husband sold their extended care facility in 2008, but she said the experience running a business will give her valuable insight to carry into the Statehouse. She said her world travel would also be an asset - including stays in Africa, El Salvador, Russia as well as time spent delivering Polio vaccines in Portugal.

Mr. Cross said his desire to tackle issues from the business perspective easily ties into other pressing challenges facing the state, including workforce development, educational attainment, opioid addiction and adequately funding local communities.

"My largest overarching campaign platform is to make Ohio and the 83rd District safer, stronger and open for business," he said. "How do we get better and how do we

compete and how do we make sure policies are not driving people, business, education out of the state?"

His experience across the country, he said, showed him a new perspective on where Ohio stands in business friendliness compared to other states. He wants to be a voice for businesses large and small and is a strong defender of the 2nd Amendment, he said.

"We want to make sure rural America, rural Ohio, where you have large corporations to family farms, that perspective is brought into the conversation and policy decisions," Mr. Cross said.

Ms. Buckland and her husband, Larry, have seven stepchildren, 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Among her talents, she lists flamenco and tap dancing.

Mr. Cross, when he's not eating pizza and burgers on the campaign trail, enjoys spending time with his wife, Christina, and playing sports with his two sons, ages 3 and 7.

The winner of the Republican nomination will likely face Democrat Ashley Philipp of McComb who is running unopposed in the primary.

Subscribers Note: *This story is part of a series focusing on key primary races for Ohio legislative seats. See Gongwer's Election Page for more information on 2018 contests, including our Key Races.*

Rover, OEPA Clash Over Landslides, Detected Chemical Traces

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Rover Pipeline builders continue to lock horns - this time engaging in a contentious back-and-forth over several land slips posing "serious threat to environmental resources."

The OEPA is also requesting new tests after the presence of a manufactured chemical, tetrachloroethene, was found in some drilling returns in Stark County.

The two issues are the latest battle grounds in the ongoing dispute between the two entities - which is simultaneously playing out in an ongoing court case in Stark County. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 5, 2018)

The landslip issue came to the forefront last month when Rover Pipeline LLC requested the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approve temporary workspace for it to repair 28 landslips in Ohio and West Virginia.

But the OEPA, in a subsequent missive to FERC said the company's online filing was the first notice the agency received of the situation and blasted the company for failing to adequately notify the state.

"Ohio EPA is concerned that Rover and FERC did not immediately bring to our attention what Rover now describes as 'a serious threat to sensitive environmental resources,'" OEPA wrote. "Instead of trying to work around Ohio, we again call on Rover to be forthright and provide us with information so we can ensure the environment and citizens are protected."

Rover, meanwhile, argues the state is attempting to besmirch the company in order to gain more leverage in Ohio's ongoing lawsuit. And it accuses state regulators of not fully reading the company's filings in its "haste to cast aspersions."

"Ohio EPA's letter is the latest in a string of baseless claims regarding Rover that attempt to denigrate Rover to advance its own litigation position," Rover's response reads. "Notwithstanding that Ohio EPA does not have jurisdiction in this matter, Rover, on a voluntary basis, has cooperated with Ohio EPA regarding all of its inquiries irrespective of jurisdiction, including on potential impacts from Rover's construction activities."

The OEPA has accused the company of claiming the state has no role in protecting its own environment - an idea the agency called "absurd."

The agency wrote that it "absolutely" expects "to be informed of these troubling threats" and involved in "permitting of any potential impacts to streams and wetlands."

"Moreover, where impacts have occurred, Rover needs to clearly gain our approval of actions to minimize impacts and repair the damage they have done," OEPA added.

The ongoing tiff over those land slips is just one of the conflicts the parties are engaged in. Another dispute arising in recent week centers on the presence of tetrachloroethene or PCE in some drilling fluid returns along the Tuscarawas River.

PCE is a liquid chemical that in high levels is thought to headaches, dizziness, unconsciousness and other effects and it is considered by the government as a potential carcinogen, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

The chemical levels detected in Rover returns registered below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional screening risk level for direct contact, according to the OEPA, but levels clocked in above the screening threshold of soil leaching to groundwater.

As a result, OEPA asked federal regulators to force Rover to conduct additional sampling along with a separate sampling of drilling fluid source water in an effort to pinpoint the PCE's point of origin.

"These additional samples should be taken immediately and the results submitted to our attention for further evaluation," OEPA wrote.

Rover, in turn, argues that PCE is a "prominent contaminant in the environment" and that Ohio has reported multiple instances of detections in the environment in circumstances not affiliated with the project. The company characterized the levels were "minor and non-hazardous."

"Ohio EPA has documented impacts of PCE contamination in the waters of the state and engaged in several initiatives to achieve attainment," Rover said. "Accordingly, Ohio EPA's new-found concerns are as spurious as they are disingenuous."

New Member Profile: Rep. McClain Follows In Father's Footsteps

Rep. McClain has worked in business and currently serves as director of finance and customer service for Doc Investments LLC, an online precious metals retailer. The metals retailer was designed to emphasize a low-cost retail model.

"I'm pretty experienced with the changing of what the business market looks like with online retail and some of the opportunities that go along with that," he said.

As state representative, he hopes to focus on policies that will help build small businesses.

Rep. McClain said another important focus for him is on policies that help families. Rep. McClain and his wife have been married for more than 10 years and have three children, ages 2, 4 and 8.

"I'm about Ohio families," he said. "I value the family structure greatly and what that does in setting kids up, and Ohio up, our communities up for greatness."

Promoting families can help communities deal with issues and help each other, he said.

"I want to be an advocate for families taking care of each other, being good stewards of our children and being able to foster environments where people have the resources they need to find the help that they need in their own communities and foster a culture of people helping people," he said.

Rep. McClain said he spends a lot of his time outside of work with his children and family as well as remodeling his house.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Bluffton University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Findlay.

At Bluffton, Rep. McClain was on the baseball team, playing several positions including shortstop, outfield and pitcher. One summer he traveled Europe with Athletes in Action, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. The team played clubs in France, Germany and the Czech Republic, while also doing ministry activities with children and at camps.

"It was almost a barnstorming tour to spread baseball in Europe," he said.

Although he's familiar with the work of the House after seeing his father's experience, Rep. McClain said he hopes to prove himself and find ways to contribute, he said.

"The hat's on my head now and I'm moving forward to do everything I can to be responsive," he said.

Politics Notebook: Buckeye Institute Highlights Capital Budget 'Pork'; Taylor Picks Up Endorsement; Schiavoni Releases New Ad; Balderson Touts War Chest

The Buckeye Institute on Monday unveiled its Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018.

All told, the projects highlighted by the Buckeye Institute total more than \$18 million, according to the report.

Among the projects singled out is \$4 million for a Major League Soccer stadium in Cincinnati, \$2.5 million to expand the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and \$5 million for the COSI Connection Corridor.

"If these, and other pork projects in the budget, were funded using local or private dollars, as they should be, Ohio could have at least \$85 million more that it could spend on pressing state priorities, save, or better yet, return to taxpayers," Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at Institute, said in a statement.

Mr. Lawson also lamented the lack of funding for strengthening the state's physical and democratic infrastructure.

"Policymakers should do more to heed our call to focus the capital budget on strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructure and move away from projects of predominately local interest," he said. "Simply put, it is hard to see how it benefits someone in Youngstown for Cincinnati to get a soccer stadium or how people in Cleveland benefit from renovations to COSI."

Taylor Endorsement: Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor on Monday picked up an endorsement in her gubernatorial bid in the form of U.S. Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.).

In announcing his endorsement, Mr. Daines said he has known Ms. Taylor's running mate, Nathan Estruth, for many years.

"Lt. Governor Mary Taylor is a conservative who has and will continue to challenge the status quo establishment in Ohio. It is important to elect leaders in states across the country - and especially in the swing state of Ohio - who will fight for a bold conservative agenda alongside the people's representatives in Washington," he said in a statement.

"We need more private sector experience and principled conservatives to tame the over-reach of government at the federal and state levels, and the Mary Taylor/Nathan Estruth ticket are the only ones in either party who bring that for the people of Ohio."

Added Ms. Taylor in a statement: "Senator Daines' support today and over the next 68 days adds to our growing momentum as conservatives across Ohio and the country rally around my campaign as the true conservative in this race."

New Ad: Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) is out with a new ad in which he highlights his desire to create opportunities for future generations.

The 30-second spot, "For Them," features Sen. Schiavoni's family, including his two children.

"As a parent, everything you do is for them. The simple lessons, the big decisions, you want them to succeed," he says in the ad. "But you worry - what opportunities will be there for them?"

Balderson Warchest: The congressional campaign of Sen. Troy Balderson on Monday announced that it has raised \$300,000 in the eight weeks since the Zanesville Republican officially entered the race.

"This campaign has had non-stop momentum since day one, and I could not be more grateful to the many contributors of this effort," he said in a statement. "So many people from my Senate District and throughout Central Ohio have asked to be a part of our campaign because they know that my conservative record makes me the best candidate to help fix a broken Washington."

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, March 15

Criminal Sentencing Commission, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, March 6

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m.,
(Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for McColley)

Wednesday, March 7

Ohioans to Stop Execution news conference on clemency hearing, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Monday, March 12

Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) fundraiser, Queen City Club, 331 E. Fourth Street, Cincinnati, 5 p.m., (Host: \$5,000 | Sponsor: \$2,500 | Supporter: \$1,000 | Attendee: \$500 to Steve Wilson for Ohio)

Tuesday, March 13

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) fundraiser, The Keep, 50 W. Broad Street, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) & Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) fundraiser, Pins Mechanical Co., 6558 Riverside Drive, Dublin, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze and/or Citizens for Duffey)

Wednesday, March 14

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) fundraiser, Pub Mahone, 31 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Friends of Bill Coley)

Tuesday, March 20

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) & Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Hackett for Ohio and/or Friends of Lou Terhar)

Wednesday, March 21

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Crystal, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$500 to Citizens for Obhof)

Tuesday, April 10

Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Buckeye Bourbon House, 36 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Committee to Elect Gayle Manning and/or Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Wednesday, April 11

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) & Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Lounge, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Peterson for Good Government and/or Steve Wilson for Ohio)

Tuesday, April 17

Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) & Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Checks to Oelslager for Ohio Committee and/or Hoagland for Ohio)

Wednesday, April 18

Ohio University State Government Alumni Luncheon, Athletic Club, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Social: 11:30 am; Luncheon: 12 pm)

Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) & Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Hottinger and/or Friends of Matt Dolan)

Tuesday, April 24

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Brenner for Ohio)
Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) & Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Matt Huffman for Ohio and/or Friends of John Eklund)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 10:32 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: Capital budget TPs

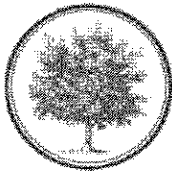
1. Overwhelmingly, funding goes toward statewide projects/state-owned buildings. Only about 5% is used for local community projects.
2. As the Speaker has said repeatedly, the goal is to help fund projects that will likely have a strong return on investment, which in the long run can bring more dollars to the communities and, by extension, the state.
3. These are projects that are brought forward by local community leaders, which they feel are important.
4. Under Republican leadership over the past seven years, the legislature and governor have cut taxes for Ohioans by more than \$5 billion, which is a primary tenet of the Buckeye Institute. So fiscal responsibility and giving more money to taxpayers has always been, and continues to be, a leading mission of the legislature.

Sent from my iPad

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 10:52 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's 2018 Capital Budget Riddled with Too Many Special Interest Requests

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's 2018 Capital Budget Riddled with Too Many Special Interest Requests

Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio Finance Committee on House Bill 529

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio House Finance Committee on House Bill 529, Ohio's 2018 capital budget.

In opening his testimony, Lawson recognized that in many ways Ohio's capital budget adheres to Buckeye's spending principles, which were outlined in *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*. The report "encouraged policymakers to be guided by three spending principles: constrain the growth of government, eliminate corporate and special interest welfare, and focus on strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructures."

Although policymakers have allocated money to strengthen Ohio's democratic infrastructure in separate legislation, Lawson noted "the capital budget was not then reduced to maintain spending balance-and it should have been."

Of the capital budget overall, Lawson expressed concern "that this budget, like others before, remains riddled with too many special interest requests, local projects, and some potential boondoggles that veer from providing core government services and infrastructure."

In highlighting the special interest projects, Lawson drew special attention to the 10 that made Buckeye's **Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018**, saying, "We highlight more than \$18 million of taxpayer dollars spent on pork projects that benefit only narrow local interests and not broader statewide needs. And that \$18 million is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. All of the special interest projects combined pushes that total to at least \$85 million. That is at least \$85 million of pork that could be spent on more pressing priorities, saved, or returned to taxpayers."

Lawson went on to say, "Ultimately, of course, local residents and local taxpayers should have every opportunity to voluntarily choose to fund amphitheaters, performance stages, parks, zoos, and even stadiums out of their own local resources. But Cleveland residents should not be compelled-through state taxes-to pay for the Columbus Zoo, nor should Youngstown residents be made to pay for a soccer venue in Cincinnati."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 529
Before the Ohio House Finance Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 6, 2018**

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Ryan, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the Capital Budget.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, a free-market think tank here in Columbus that advocates for low-tax, low-regulation policies that remove barriers to prosperity for Ohioans.

On February 5, The Buckeye Institute released its report, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, which outlined ways to keep Ohio's capital budget focused on principled government spending.[1] Our report encouraged policymakers to be guided by three spending principles: constrain the growth of government, eliminate corporate and special interest welfare, and focus on strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructures.

In many ways, Ohio's \$2.62 billion budget adheres to these basic principles, but we are concerned that this budget, like others before, remains riddled with too many special interest requests, local projects, and some potential boondoggles that veer from providing core government services and infrastructure.

The Buckeye Institute has just released its Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018,[2] in which we highlight more than \$18 million of taxpayer dollars spent on pork projects that benefit only narrow local interests and not broader state-wide needs. And that \$18 million is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. All of the special interest projects combined pushes that total to at least \$85 million. That is at least \$85 million of pork that could be spent on more pressing priorities, saved, or returned to taxpayers.

Regrettably, examples of non-essential government spending abound. The \$5 million to build retail and restaurant space at COSI in Columbus-not essential government spending. The \$1 million for orangutan and elephant exhibits at the Columbus Zoo-already subsidized by Franklin County property owners-not essential government spending. The \$800,000 to install splash pads around the state-not essential government spending. And the \$4 million slated for a soccer stadium in Cincinnati-not essential government spending and not likely to live up to the economic hype. As the St. Louis Federal Reserve concluded last year:

Consumers who spend money on sporting events would likely spend the money on other forms of entertainment, which has a similar economic impact. Rather than subsidizing sports stadiums, governments could finance other projects such as infrastructure or education that have the potential to increase productivity and promote economic growth.[3]

Ultimately, of course, local residents and local taxpayers should have every opportunity to voluntarily choose to fund amphitheaters, performance stages, parks, zoos, and even stadiums out of their own local resources. But Cleveland residents should not be compelled-through state taxes-to pay for the Columbus Zoo, nor should Youngstown residents be made to pay for a soccer venue in Cincinnati.

Then there is the \$400,000 appropriation to build several government-owned broadband networks across the state. As I outlined recently in *Broadband "GON" Wrong*,^[4] private-sector players have already deployed billions of dollars developing state-of-the-art technology to nimbly respond to consumer demands and preferences, while these government-owned networks have proven unable to pay for themselves, leaving taxpayers to pay for networks that few consumers even want to use.

That communities are asking for state money in the capital budget indicates that these networks all too frequently fail to live up to the promises made by government officials, and often lead to further taxpayer subsidies to maintain operations.

Many of the other local projects are not inherently misguided, but insofar as they provide only narrow local benefits and do not strengthen Ohio's physical infrastructure, state policymakers should remove them from the capital budget. Those funds should instead be spent on Ohio's pressing needs, such as building and maintaining water and sewer systems, and state roads.

We are also disappointed that this capital budget will not strengthen the state's democratic infrastructure, including, for example, replacing Ohio's aging voting machines. Such funding appears allocated in separate legislation, but the capital budget was not then reduced to maintain spending balance-and it should have been.

Finally, and perhaps most critically, policymakers must remember that a lack of fiscal restraint, even during good economic times, unwittingly creates unrealistic spending expectations over time. Using the capital budget to fund local projects rather than state priorities will only make it harder for policymakers to curb and manage state spending when tough economic times inevitably arrive.

Today, even as the state budget looks solidly in the black, the danger of recession and fiscal instability still lurks. Recall, for instance, how unforeseen challenges required immediate and multiple adjustments to the last biennial budget due to lower than expected revenues. Prudence cautions against the tempting but non-essential government spending included in this capital budget. For the sake of Ohio taxpayers, such temptation must be resisted.

Thank you and I look forward to answering any questions that the Committee may have at this time.

[1] Greg R. Lawson and Quinn Beeson, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, The Buckeye Institute, February 5, 2018.

[2] **More Than \$18 Million Spent on The Buckeye Institute's Top 10 List of Worst Capital Budget Requests**, The Buckeye Institute press release, March 5, 2018.

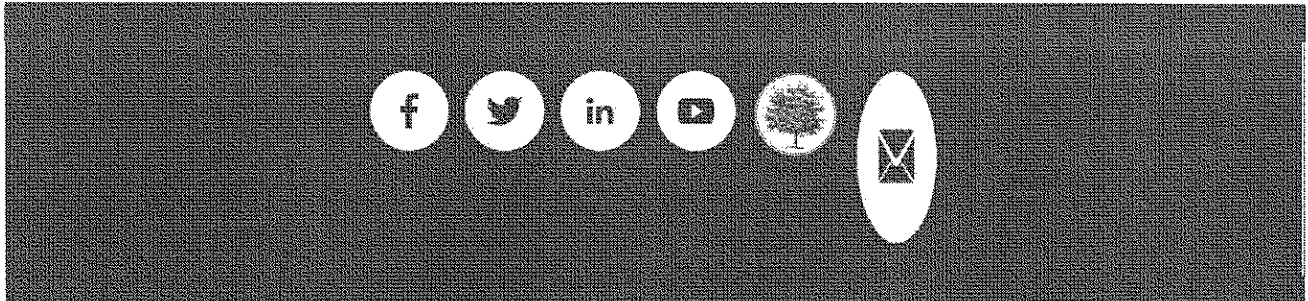
[3] Scott A. Wolla, *The Economics of Subsidizing Sports Stadiums*, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, May 2017.

[4] Greg R. Lawson, *Broadband "GON" Wrong: Remembering Why Government-Owned Broadband Networks are Bad for Taxpayers*, The Buckeye Institute, February 14, 2018.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

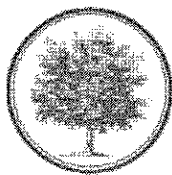
[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 12:42 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Constitution is a Foundational Document,
Not a List of Policy Choices

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

**The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Constitution is a
Foundational Document, Not a List of Policy Choices**

*Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio House Government
Accountability and Oversight Committee on House Bill 506*

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or [download a PDF](#)) before the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee on House Bill 506.

In his testimony, Lawson drew attention to a growing problem in Ohio -- special interests pursuing constitutional amendment referendums in order to circumvent the legislature or force the legislature to consider legislation that they might not otherwise take up. In this instance, House Bill 506, which was introduced to head off a referendum governing high volume dog breeders.

Of this practice Lawson said, "Bills like this one [House Bill 506] have lately percolated through the General Assembly as strategic alternatives to political maneuvers orchestrated by well-funded special interests that would otherwise seek to amend the Ohio Constitution and encumber our most fundamental governing document with countless rules and regulations."

Noting that Ohio's Constitution is a "foundational document" Lawson said of this strategy by special interests "The...strategy is clever and remarkably effective, but it must be resisted. The General Assembly must not be muscled by special interest groups threatening unnecessary amendments to the state constitution unless their legislative demands are met. Such threats aim a dagger at the heart of our constitutional form of self-government."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 506
Before the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 7, 2018**

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 506 and the Ohio Constitution.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, a free-market think tank here in Columbus that advocates for low-tax, low-regulation policies that remove barriers to prosperity for Ohioans.

House Bill 506 would codify new rules for dog breeders. Fair enough. However, I am not here today to testify about dog breeders or their rules. I am here instead because House Bill 506 is before this Committee as part of a troubling new breed of preemptive legislation, a trend propounded by various special interest groups -- in this case, dog breeders -- designed to force constitutional amendments or preemptive laws that the legislature might not otherwise take up. The sponsor of House Bill 506 acknowledged as much several weeks ago.

Dog breeders and the merits of this particular legislation aside, bills like this one have lately percolated through the General Assembly as strategic alternatives to political

maneuvers orchestrated by well-funded special interests that would otherwise seek to amend the Ohio Constitution and encumber our most fundamental governing document with countless rules and regulations. Thus, in this instance, House Bill 506 comes before the Committee so that Ohio's Constitution will not include an amendment for dog breeders.

The special interests' strategy is clever and remarkably effective, but it must be resisted. The General Assembly must not be muscled by special interest groups threatening unnecessary amendments to the state constitution unless their legislative demands are met. Such threats aim a dagger at the heart of our constitutional form of self-government.

The special interests argue that their strong-arm tactics -- such as paying constituents for their signatures to put constitutional amendments on the ballot -- are necessary in order to compel the General Assembly to act in the interest of the people. The asserted ends sound laudable, but the means are not.

First, beneath the altruistic rhetoric claiming to defend the "will of the people" lies the more self-serving purpose of simply bending the law -- by preemptive statute like House Bill 506 or constitutional amendment, they do not care which -- to protect their own special interest.

Second, as the cornerstone of our self-rule, the Ohio Constitution frames the very structure of our state government, and that structure will not stand under the constant pressures of change and amendment. Constitutional amendments therefore ought to be rare events and taken up only for the most significant purposes, not as a more permanent alternative to the Revised or Administrative codes. The state constitution is a foundational document, not a list of policy choices or a rule book for dog breeders.

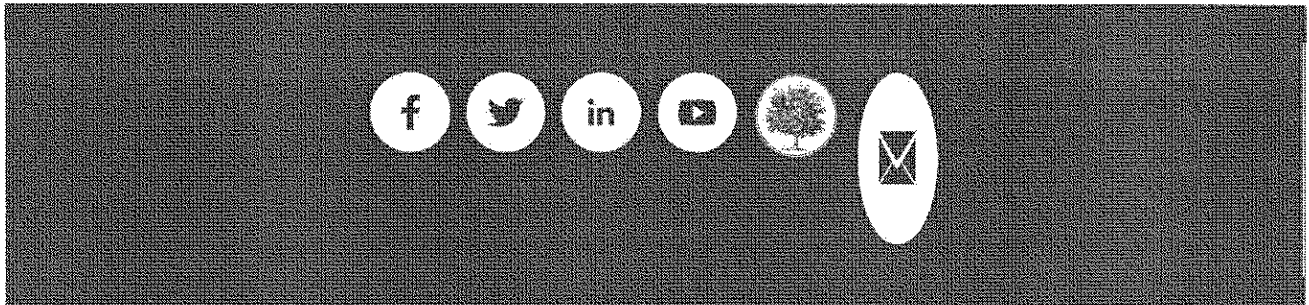
If, as the special interests claim, the General Assembly fails to accomplish or defend the will of the people, our political system provides a remedy to hold the assembly accountable -- elections. One hardly need remind this Committee that legislators who do not listen to their constituents and who do not pursue policies and legislation consistent with their constituents' concerns can and should be voted from office. Thus, statutes and elections are and ought to be the people's recourse -- not the bombastic threats of constitutional amendments or else.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee might have at this time.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Finlay, Serena
Sent: Thursday, March 8, 2018 1:57 PM
To: Paretto, Dominic
Subject: Deadline Tomorrow: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS TOMORROW AT 4PM



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.


The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09

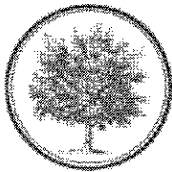


Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, March 9, 2018 1:20 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Employment Rate Springs Ahead, While Unemployment Still Above National Average

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Employment Rate Springs Ahead, While Unemployment Still Above National Average

Columbus, OH -- Andrew J. Kidd, Ph.D., an economist at the **Economic Research Center (ERC)** at **The Buckeye Institute**; and Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive director of the ERC and vice president of policy at Buckeye, commented on newly released employment data from the **Ohio Department of Job and Family Services**.

"Ohio's unemployment rate declined from 4.9 percent in December to 4.7 percent in January, continuing a positive economic path for Ohio's labor market. However, Ohio's unemployment rate still remains well above the national average of 4.1 percent, indicating there are still obstacles that policymakers need to address to make Ohio a national leader.

"Also concerning is that Ohio's unemployment rate declined due partially to fewer Ohioans being in the job market as labor force participation dipped below the national average. This signifies some job seekers may have become discouraged and stopped searching for employment.

"Ohio experienced an 8,900 increase in non-farm private employment in January 2018, nearly five times the growth from December 2017 and accounting for more than a third of the number of new jobs since January 2017. Although this is only one month with such large gains, this is an indication that Ohio's labor market is strengthening and expanding.

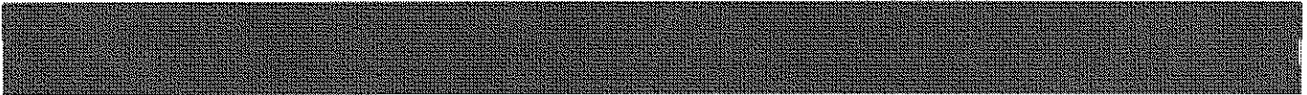
"Much of this job growth was in construction, which saw an increase of 2,600 jobs. This bodes well for the industry, which had seen declines in the latter part of 2017, and could be indicative of further development and economic growth. Mining and logging also continued to rebound after years of struggle, growing by 5.5 percent in 2017.

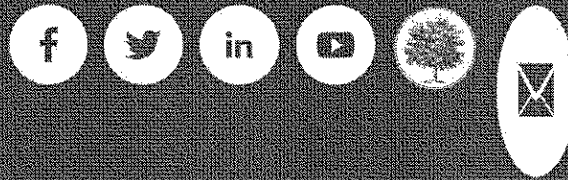
"Overall, Ohio's labor market continues to trend in the right direction but discouraged workers and decreases in lower-skilled jobs such as manufacturing (-1,400), and leisure and hospitality (-1,700), show there needs to be fewer barriers that prevent people who are seeking to improve their skills through training and licensing from attaining the jobs they desire."

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.





The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, March 9, 2018 4:37 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: Gongwer Tracking Alerts

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please unsubscribe

BILL TRACKING ALERTS FOR BRAD MILLER

[View in a browser](#)

GONGWER
SINCE 1906
OHIO'S HOME FOR POLICY & POLITICS

News
Bill Tracking
Legislation

TRACKED LEGISLATION

HB 439

BAIL DETERMINATIONS (Dever, J., Ginter, T.)

To require courts to use the results of a validated risk assessment tool in bail determinations; to allow nonmonetary bail to be set; to require courts to collect certain data on bail, pretrial release, and sentencing; and to require the state Criminal Sentencing Commission to create a list of validated risk assessment tools and monitor the policies and procedures of courts in setting bail and utilizing pretrial supervision services.

Committee Hearing in House Criminal Justice:
Scheduled (Agenda)

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

[View as a Web Page](#)

Copyright 2018, Gongwer News Service/Ohio

17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215

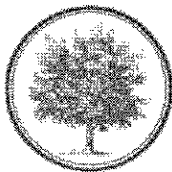
All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without
express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 4:18 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Capital Budget Riddled with Pork Projects that Benefit Only Narrow Local Interests

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Capital Budget Riddled with Pork Projects that Benefit Only Narrow Local Interests

Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio Senate Committee on House Bill 529

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee on House Bill 529, Ohio's 2018 capital budget.

As he did in his testimony before the Ohio House Finance Committee, Lawson recognized that in many ways the 2018 capital budget adheres to the spending principles outlined in *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*. However, he went on to say, "We are concerned that this budget, like others before, remains riddled with too many special interest requests, local projects, and some potential boondoggles that veer from providing core government services and infrastructure."

In highlighting the special interest projects, Lawson again drew special attention to the 10 that made Buckeye's **Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018**, saying, "We highlight more than \$18 million of taxpayer dollars spent on pork projects that benefit only narrow local interests and not broader statewide needs. And that \$18 million is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. All of the special interest projects combined pushes that total to at least \$85 million. That is at least \$85 million of pork that could be spent on more pressing priorities, saved, or returned to taxpayers."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 529
Before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 13, 2018**

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the Capital Budget.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

On February 5, The Buckeye Institute released its report, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, which outlined ways to keep Ohio's capital budget focused on principled government spending.[1] Our report encouraged policymakers to be guided by three spending principles: constrain the growth of government, eliminate corporate and special interest welfare, and focus on strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructures.

In many ways, Ohio's \$2.62 billion budget adheres to these basic principles, but we are concerned that this budget, like others before, remains riddled with too many special interest requests, local projects, and some potential boondoggles that veer from providing core government services and infrastructure.

The Buckeye Institute has just released its Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018,[2] in which we highlight more than \$18 million of taxpayer dollars spent on pork projects that benefit only narrow local interests and not broader state-wide needs. And that

\$18 million is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. All of the special interest projects combined pushes that total to at least \$85 million. That is at least \$85 million of pork that could be spent on more pressing priorities, saved, or returned to taxpayers.

Regrettably, examples of non-essential government spending abound. The \$5 million to build retail and restaurant space at COSI in Columbus -- not essential government spending. The \$1 million for orangutan and elephant exhibits at the Columbus Zoo -- already subsidized by Franklin County property owners -- not essential government spending. The \$800,000 to install splash pads around the state -- not essential government spending. And the \$4 million slated for a soccer stadium in Cincinnati -- not essential government spending and not likely to live up to the economic hype. As the St. Louis Federal Reserve concluded last year:

Consumers who spend money on sporting events would likely spend the money on other forms of entertainment, which has a similar economic impact. Rather than subsidizing sports stadiums, governments could finance other projects such as infrastructure or education that have the potential to increase productivity and promote economic growth.[3]

Ultimately, of course, local residents and local taxpayers should have every opportunity to voluntarily choose to fund amphitheaters, performance stages, parks, zoos, and even stadiums out of their own local resources. But Cleveland residents should not be compelled -- through state taxes -- to pay for the Columbus Zoo, nor should Youngstown residents be made to pay for a soccer venue in Cincinnati.

Then there is the \$400,000 appropriation to build several government-owned broadband networks across the state. As I outlined recently in *Broadband "GON" Wrong*,[4] private-sector players have already deployed billions of dollars developing state-of-the-art technology to nimbly respond to consumer demands and preferences, while these government-owned networks have proven unable to pay for themselves, leaving taxpayers to pay for networks that few consumers even want to use.

That communities are asking for state money in the capital budget indicates that these networks all too frequently fail to live up to the promises made by government officials, and often lead to further taxpayer subsidies to maintain operations.

Many of the other local projects are not inherently misguided, but insofar as they provide only narrow local benefits and do not strengthen Ohio's physical infrastructure, state policymakers should remove them from the capital budget. Those funds should instead be

spent on Ohio's pressing needs, such as building and maintaining water and sewer systems, and state roads.

We are also disappointed that this capital budget will not strengthen the state's democratic infrastructure, including, for example, replacing Ohio's aging voting machines. Such funding appears allocated in separate legislation, but the capital budget was not then reduced to maintain spending balance -- and it should have been.

Finally, and perhaps most critically, policymakers must remember that a lack of fiscal restraint, even during good economic times, unwittingly creates unrealistic spending expectations over time. Using the capital budget to fund local projects rather than state priorities will only make it harder for policymakers to curb and manage state spending when tough economic times inevitably arrive.

Today, even as the state budget looks solidly in the black, the danger of recession and fiscal instability still lurks. Recall, for instance, how unforeseen challenges required immediate and multiple adjustments to the last biennial budget due to lower than expected revenues. Prudence cautions against the tempting but non-essential government spending included in this capital budget. For the sake of Ohio taxpayers, such temptation must be resisted.

Thank you and I look forward to answering any questions that the Committee may have at this time.

[1] Greg R. Lawson and Quinn Beeson, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, The Buckeye Institute, February 5, 2018.

[2] *More Than \$18 Million Spent on The Buckeye Institute's Top 10 List of Worst Capital Budget Requests*, The Buckeye Institute press release, March 5, 2018.

[3] Scott A. Wolla, *The Economics of Subsidizing Sports Stadiums*, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, May 2017.

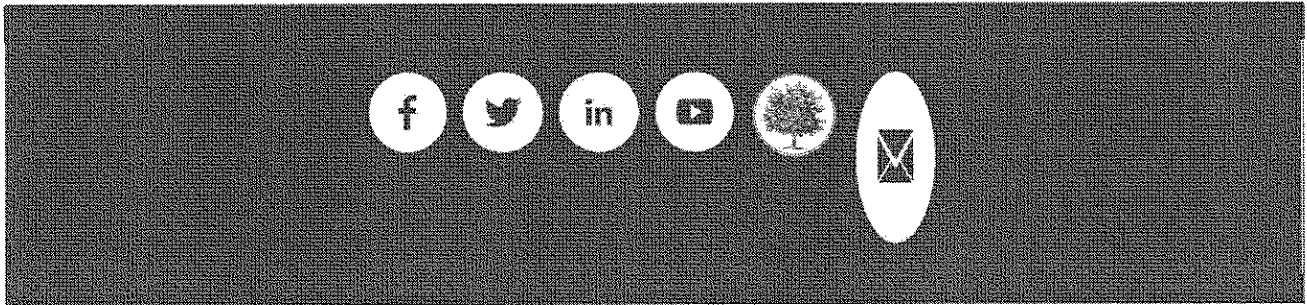
[4] Greg R. Lawson, *Broadband "GON" Wrong: Remembering Why Government-Owned Broadband Networks are Bad for Taxpayers*, The Buckeye Institute, February 14, 2018.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support

from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

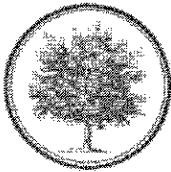
[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 10:19 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: "Sue and Settle" Circumvents Constitutional Role of the Peoples' Elected Representatives to Make Policy

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: "Sue and Settle" Circumvents Constitutional Role of the Peoples' Elected Representatives to Make Policy

*Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio House Government
Accountability and Oversight Committee on House Bill 301*

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee on House Bill 301.

In opening his testimony, Lawson noted that the practice of "sue and settle" is a "pernicious but all-too-common practice" that "circumvent[s] the constitutional prerogative of the General Assembly to make policy."

Lawson urged the General Assembly to end this practice and reassert its rightful policy role by "requiring the [General] Assembly's approval for any consent decree or court-approved settlement to which the state is a party that modifies or prevents a statute's implementation.

###

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 301
Before the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 14, 2018**

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 301.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

House Bill 301 takes a significant stride toward correcting the pernicious but all-too-common practice known as "sue and settle." Special interests pursue a "sue and settle" scheme by filing a lawsuit against the state challenging state laws, regulations, or policies in the hope of reaching a favorable court-ordered settlement that effectively frustrate the state's policy objective.

Ultimately, of course, "sue and settle" lawsuits circumvent the constitutional prerogative of the General Assembly to make policy.

The troubling "sue and settle" strategy has become so widespread at the state and federal levels that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has called such special interest lawsuits what they really are: "regulating behind closed doors."[1]

Indeed, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has acknowledged the problem of backroom "regulation through litigation," and has recently amended the process by which the EPA will agree to consent decrees.[2]

The Buckeye Institute is pleased that Ohio appears ready to take similar, reasonable steps with Representative Butler's House Bill 301 to curb backroom settlements that often muddy regulatory waters that should be clear and transparent.

In our view, House Bill 301 reasserts the General Assembly's rightful policy role by requiring the Assembly's approval for any consent decree or court-approved settlement to which the state is a party that modifies or prevents a statute's implementation. With such a requirement, House Bill 301 will return power to Ohio's electorate by restoring transparency to a legislative and regulatory process that has been strategically hijacked by special interests and their lawyers.

We applaud this effort as sound regulatory policy, and we encourage the General Assembly to end the unsettling practice of "sue and settle" litigation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have at this time.

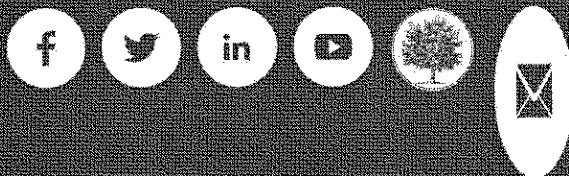
[1] U.S. Chamber of Commerce, **Sue and Settle: Regulating Behind Closed Doors**, March 6, 2018.

[2] Administrator Pruitt Issues Directive to End EPA "Sue & Settle" United States Environmental Protection Agency press release, October 16, 2017.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

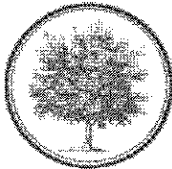
[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 4:21 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Sales Tax Holidays are More Gimmick, Less Reform

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#).



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Sales Tax Holidays are More Gimmick, Less Reform

*Greg Lawson Submits Testimony to the Ohio House Ways
and Means Committee on Senate Bill 226*

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson submitted written testimony today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) to the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee on Senate Bill 226.

In opening his testimony, Lawson outlined the downsides of special interest tax deductions, which narrow the tax base, raise taxes, and offer preferential treatment to special interests.

Pointing to a report by the non-partisan Tax Foundation, Lawson went on to say of sales tax holidays, they "represent more of a gimmick than fundamental reform."

Lawson also noted that the Tax Foundation report questioned how much of a savings sales tax holidays offered consumers, highlighting that retailers may raise prices to capture a portion of the tax savings. "This practice alone would suggest that consumers would benefit more from a flatter tax without special exemptions rather than a one-time-a-year sales tax break."

After the bill passed out of committee Lawson said, "Though the legislation did clear the committee and seems poised for passage, it remains critical to examine all such tax expenditures to avoid reducing the overall competitiveness of our full tax code."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 226
to the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 14, 2018**

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding Senate Bill 226 and Ohio's tax policy.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

According to the Ohio Department of Taxation, a tax expenditure is any tax policy that has the following four characteristics:[1]

- The item reduces, or has the potential to reduce, one of the state's General Revenue Fund taxes;
- The item would have been part of the defined base;
- The item is not subject to an alternative tax; and
- The item is subject to change by state legislative action.

The Buckeye Institute has long opposed most tax expenditures, including credits and exemptions, because of their adverse impacts on taxpayers and the level playing field on which a free market depends.

As exceptions to the tax code, tax expenditures effectively narrow the tax base. The narrower the tax base the higher and more confiscatory taxes become for those still subject to the tax. Thus, tax expenditures, however unintentionally or well-intended, eventually pick economic winners and losers through their preferential treatment under the law.

Flatter taxes, by contrast, levied on broader bases and without special exemptions, lower the tax burden and spread the cost of the tax more evenly and fairly among taxpayers.

Sales tax holidays, in particular, represent more of a gimmick than fundamental reform. As the non-partisan Tax Foundation points out, rather than moving Ohio to a flatter tax, sales tax holidays introduce complexity and instability to sales tax collections.[2]

Additionally, there is uncertainty as to how large of a savings sales tax holidays offer the consumer with some research showing that retailers may raise prices to capture a portion of the tax savings that are anticipated by consumers.[3] This practice alone would suggest that consumers would benefit more from a flatter tax without special exemptions rather than a one-time-a-year sales tax break.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written testimony to the Committee.

[1] State of Ohio, **Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Tax Expenditure Report**, Office of Budget and Management, November 25, 2016.

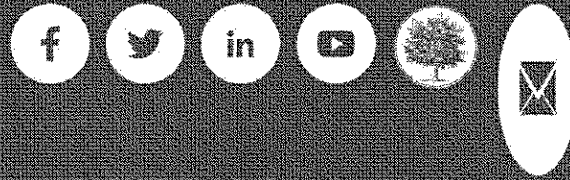
[2] Joseph Bishop-Henchman and Scott Drenkard, *Sales Tax Holidays: Politically Expedient but Poor Tax Policy*, 2017, Tax Foundation, July 25, 2017.

[3] *Ibid.*

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



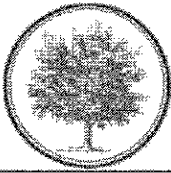
The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 7:03 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: REMINDER: AEI President Arthur Brooks to Address The Buckeye Institute Luncheon March 21



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Friends,

You may have seen our invitation for this event previously. If so, consider this to be a reminder. If not, consider yourself formally invited, and see the details below. We'd love to have you with us.

Update: We added another table to the room for our luncheon with **Arthur Brooks** on Wednesday at noon, but once that last table is full -- as predicted -- the event will be sold out. Also, another and probably more intriguing piece of breaking news: This may be your last chance to hear Arthur Brooks in his role as AEI President. See his announcement in *The Wall Street Journal* of passing the torch next year **here**.

Please do register to attend if you would like to occupy one of those additional seats and take advantage of this special opportunity to hear from him firsthand.

You are cordially invited to join us for an extraordinary luncheon talk featuring American Enterprise Institute (AEI) President Arthur Brooks on Wednesday, March 21, at noon.

This is one event that you don't want to miss, so **register soon**. Further details are available by following the registration link.

We hope to see you Wednesday!

Sincerely,
The Buckeye Institute team

Register to Attend

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, nonprofit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

Support The Buckeye Institute!



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

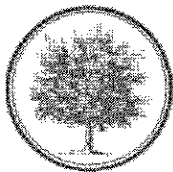
[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 7:04 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Policymakers Should Take Bolder Strides on Health Care Reforms that Country Can Follow

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Policymakers Should Take Bolder Strides on Health Care Reforms that Country Can Follow

Buckeye Submits Public Comments on Ohio's Medicaid Waiver Proposals

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive director of the **Economic Research Center** and vice president of policy, submitted public comments on Ohio's two Medicaid waiver proposals -- the **work and community engagement waiver** and the **state innovation or 1332 waiver**.

"After years of failure in Washington, these waivers represent the first step in Ohio repairing its broken health insurance markets," said Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive director of the Economic Research Center at The Buckeye Institute and vice president of policy.

"While we applaud these proposals, we encourage policymakers to take bigger, bolder

strides to blaze a trail of innovative health insurance reforms that the rest of the country can follow."

Work and Community Engagement Wavier

Pointing out that Medicaid was drastically changed under the Affordable Care Act, Hederman said in his public comments, "Encouraging healthy, able-bodied adults to remain in the workforce or engage in other educational and training activities, Ohio's proposed Section 1115 waiver will enhance lifetime earnings, income, and health. By enhancing the health of the covered Medicaid enrollees, Ohio's proposed waiver meets the twin goals of the waiver demonstration project by promoting economic stability and improving health."

While noting that "Ohio's waiver proposal pursues sound public policy," Hederman outlined recommended improvements to the proposal in several key areas: data collection, self-reporting, age requirements, auditing beneficiary reporting, and emphasizing the disincentives to work created by expanded-Medicaid.

State Innovation or 1332 Waiver

Although the recent federal tax reform legislation reduced the tax penalty for violating the individual mandate to \$0, Hederman said that "the mandate itself remains in federal law and the penalty could be raised again someday."

Hederman went on to urge policymakers to use the Section 1332 process to explore new alternatives to the status quo. "Policymakers could, for instance, request a waiver from the Affordable Care Act's employer mandate. Combining such a waiver with a reinsurance waiver like Alaska's could help the individual market while alleviating a significant burden for small businesses. Ohio should use the waiver process boldly and creatively to lower individual insurance premiums and stabilize the state's insurance market."

As repeal of the Affordable Care Act floundered at the federal level, Hederman, an expert in health care policy, was the first to propose using section 1332 waivers as a way to allow states to waive parts of the law and take back the ability to regulate their insurance markets. Hederman, and co-author Dennis G. Smith, outlined this approach in the report *Returning Health Care Power to the States*.

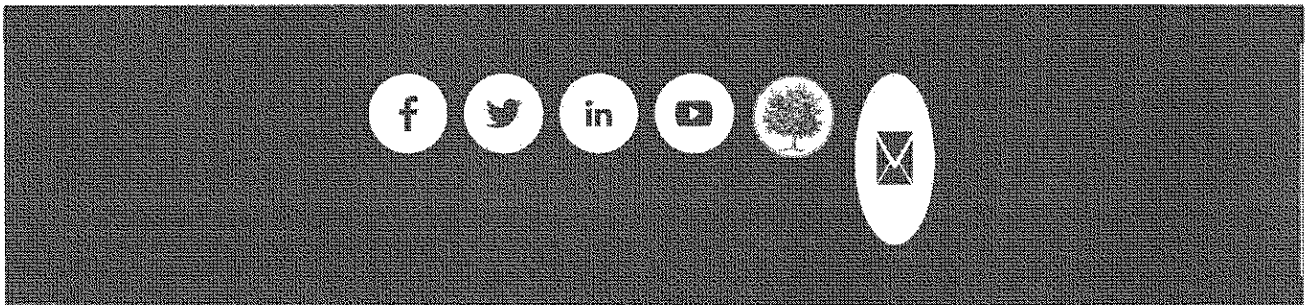
More recently, in *Federal Efforts to Stabilize ACA Individual Markets through State Innovation*, a study for the **Mercatus Center** at George Mason University, Hederman and Doug Badger with the Galen Institute argue that Congress and the administration should empower states to devise new ways to make health insurance more affordable for more people.

The Buckeye Institute's public comments were filed on Friday, March 16, 2018.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

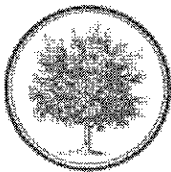
[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 12:48 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: Dissent Reveals Growing List of Supreme Court Justices Agree with The Buckeye Institute About Administrative Agency Overreach

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

Dissent Reveals Growing List of Supreme Court Justices Agree with The Buckeye Institute About Administrative Agency Overreach

Columbus, OH -- Robert Alt, **The Buckeye Institute's** president and chief executive officer, issued the following statement following the **decision by the Supreme Court of the United States** declining to hear *Garco Construction, Inc. v. Secretary of the Army*—a case that challenged administrative state and federal government overreach.

"While we are disappointed that the Supreme Court chose not to hear *Garco Construction, Inc. v. Secretary of the Army*, we are encouraged by Justice Clarence Thomas's dissent, which was joined by Justice Neil Gorsuch in expressing that government agencies should not be allowed to be the judge of what their own rules mean," said **Robert Alt**, president and chief executive officer at The Buckeye Institute. "This is the exact point Buckeye raised in its **amicus brief** and their dissent reads as a challenge to bring more cases that

would overturn ill-conceived Supreme Court precedent allowing for this kind of overreach. We say, Challenge Accepted!"

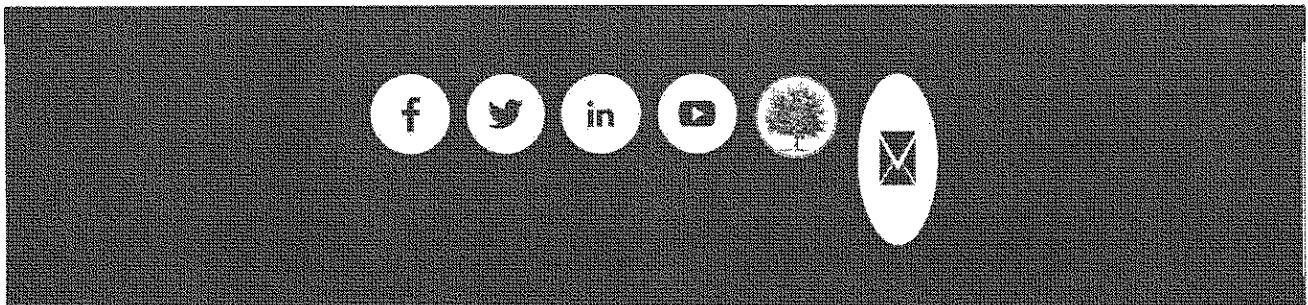
Justice Thomas's dissent noted that Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito previously have joined opinions suggesting that judicial deference to an agency's legal interpretation of its own regulations should be reconsidered. By joining the dissent, Justice Gorsuch adds to that chorus seeking to reconsider this important question. Justice Thomas concluded by saying, the "Court has passed up another opportunity to remedy precisely the accumulation of governmental powers that the Framers warned against."

Despite the setback in *Garco Construction*, The Buckeye Institute's **Legal Center** will continue to pursue opportunities for the Supreme Court of the United States to remedy these kinds of administrative abuses.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

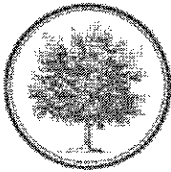
[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)
Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 3:48 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Occupational Licensing is a Red-Taped Obstacle for Workers

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Occupational Licensing is a Red-Taped Obstacle for Workers

*Greg Lawson Testifies Before the Ohio Senate Government
Oversight and Reform Committee on Senate Bill 255*

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or [download a PDF](#)) before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee on Senate Bill 255.

In opening his testimony, Lawson said of Ohio's occupational licensing requirements, "No one denies that state licensing requirements are needed in some cases and industries to ensure public safety...But these concerns fade quickly when applied to auctioneers, travel guides, and hairdressers -- all of whom are subject to Ohio's byzantine licensing requirements."

Lawson also pointed to the state's burdensome occupational licensing as a factor slowing Ohio's economic recovery and impacting Ohio's minority communities, "State permission slip policies that make it harder and more expensive to find work only exacerbate the problem." Going on later to note that that while the state's labor force participation has improved in recent years it remains below the national average and "Occupational licensing hurdles only make Ohio's full recovery more difficult."

The research in support of reducing occupational licensing spans the political spectrum with Lawson highlighting research by the **Heritage Foundation**, **National Bureau of Economic Research**, the **Brookings Institute's Hamilton Project**, and **Democratic and Republican** administrations. He also highlighted Buckeye's own research, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back* and *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*.

In closing, Lawson urged policymakers to reform Ohio's occupational licensing regulations saying, "Senate Bill 255 begins the overdue effort of reforming the state's occupational licensing regime and ending a misguided permission slip policy that has stood in the way of growth and prosperity for far too long."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 255
Before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 21, 2018**

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding Senate Bill 255 and Ohio's need for occupational licensing reform.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

Ohioans should not have to ask the state for permission to earn a living. Yet, all too often, Ohio creates permission slip policies that make it harder -- and sometimes impossible -- for

Ohioans or would-be Ohioans to pursue their careers and put food on the table for their families. Such policies must end.

No one denies that state licensing requirements are needed in some cases and industries to ensure public safety. Requiring appropriate education and training for physicians, healthcare providers, pilots, and truck drivers, for example, helps safeguard the general public in our hospitals and on our roads and runways. But these concerns fade quickly when applied to auctioneers, travel guides, and hairdressers -- all of whom are subject to Ohio's byzantine licensing requirements.

Consider Jennifer McClellan. A new mother, a long-time professional, and a licensed massage therapist, Jennifer tried moving back to Ohio to be closer to her family, but the Ohio State Medical Board denied her license application because she was 10 days shy of the state's training requirements.[1] The board unduly discounted Jennifer's years of training and work experience, and would not honor the license she had already earned in Minnesota. Jennifer is not alone.

Tragically, such cases plague Ohio's minority communities -- communities already facing daunting employment prospects. Nationally, the unemployment rate among African Americans remains much higher than among other demographics. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the most recent unemployment rate among African Americans was 6.9 percent -- nearly double the 3.7 percent rate for whites.[2] Unemployment confronts 27.2 percent of young African Americans between 16 and 19, compared to the 12.6 percent of young whites.[3] State permission slip policies that make it harder and more expensive to find work only exacerbate the problem, adding insult to injury in our job-deprived minority communities.

Recent scholarship across the political spectrum has highlighted the challenges presented by occupational licensing schemes and has made clear that the burdens created by such bureaucratic requirements must be lifted.

For starters, according to the Heritage Foundation, occupational licensing requirements cost the average U.S. household a staggering \$1,033 per year.[4] Even more troubling, however, are the adverse effects that licensing has on interstate mobility and the labor market itself. A new study by professors Janna Johnson and Morris Kleiner of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, for example, found that the migration rate of workers in occupations with state-specific licensing exam requirements was 36 percent lower than rates for other occupations.[5] By contrast, occupations with national examinations showed no evidence of such a limitation on interstate mobility.[6] Put simply, state-specific

licensure makes migration more difficult by closing occupational doors for people who want to move.

In testimony before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Professor Kleiner has stated that he and Alan Krueger, the former head of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisors, had calculated that licensing laws cost between a half and one percent of jobs nationally in 2010.[7] Those seemingly small percentages amount to tens of thousands of jobs across America that never came into existence -- a claim bolstered by research out of the Brookings Institute's Hamilton Project revealing that stringent licensing requirements result in fewer providers of the services subject to the requirements.[8] Fewer providers means fewer employers and fewer available jobs.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, given Mr. Krueger and Professor Kleiner's findings, the Obama Administration released a detailed report in 2015 calling for nationwide reforms to occupational licensing.[9] Echoing bipartisan support for such measures, the Trump Administration's Secretary of Labor has since said, "Americans want principled, broad-based reform. If licenses are unnecessary, eliminate them. If they are needed, streamline them. And, if they are honored by one state, consider honoring them in your own state. Americans looking to enter the workforce deserve no less than our most ardent efforts to remove regulatory barriers so that they can have a job." [10]

Focusing less on national trends and more on Ohio's own licensing concerns, The Buckeye Institute's report, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*, showed not only that Ohio's licensing burdens are well above the national average, but also that nearly every Ohio license that requires training can be earned in less time in another state.[11]

Our subsequent study, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*, confirmed the disturbing and stubborn fact that Ohio's licensing requirements erect higher barriers to employment for those most in need of quality jobs: middle-aged and low-income workers, and those without a college degree.[12]

Senate Bill 255 takes several steps toward fixing Ohio's occupational licensure problem. First, for the first time in state history, policymakers would be required to use the least restrictive regulation when displacing competition, and the bill identifies various licensing alternatives -- listed from least restrictive to most restrictive -- that the state could pursue if confronting a verifiable public safety risk. Second, Senate Bill 255 establishes a process for legislative panels to use when weeding through Ohio's overgrown thicket of licensing boards. Under this process, boards that the General Assembly does not proactively reauthorize would simply dissolve. Taken together, these provisions give lawmakers a

much-needed tool for uprooting bureaucratic thistles that deprive Ohioans of the potential fruits of their labor.

In addition to its sunset provisions, Senate Bill 255 also creates a sunrise review process to be used whenever a new licensing bill is introduced. This provision will require the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) to assess the potential consequences of any new licensing legislation with respect to employment opportunities, consumer choices and costs, market competition, and costs to the government. Additionally, under S.B. 255, the LSC must assess 20 percent of the occupations regulated by the state each calendar year beginning in 2018, assess all occupations at least once before 2022, and continue such assessments on a five-year rolling basis after 2022.

These are all positive strides for a state still struggling to create new jobs. Ohio still has not rebounded fully from the tech bubble burst and remains down by almost 93,000 private-sector jobs from its peak in March 2000 -- now 18 years ago.[13] The state's labor force participation has improved in recent years, but remains slightly below the national average. Occupational licensing hurdles only make Ohio's full recovery more difficult.

Every licensing requirement raises a new red-taped obstacle for workers to clear before earning a living or starting a new career. Every hour of unpaid training needed to satisfy bureaucratic requirements is an hour not spent earning tips, impressing a boss, serving a customer, or opening a business. Those are hours of lost productivity, hours of opportunity that young, low-income workers sorely need, but that the state continues to take for itself.

Senate Bill 255 begins the overdue effort of reforming the state's occupational licensing regime and ending a misguided permission slip policy that has stood in the way of growth and prosperity for far too long.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions that the Committee might have.

[1] Greg R. Lawson, **Goodbye, Ohio. A Talented Massage Therapist Forced to Leave State Because of Crazy Licensing Rules**, The Buckeye Institute, February 29, 2016.

[2] Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Table A-2. Employment Status of Civilian Population by Race, Sex, and Age**, U.S. Department of Labor (Last visited March 16, 2018)

[3] *Ibid.*

[4] Salim Furth, **Costly Mistakes: How Bad Policies Raise the Cost of Living**, The Heritage Foundation, November 23, 2015.

[5] Janna E. Johnson and Morris M. Kleiner, **Is Occupational Licensing a Barrier to Interstate Migration?**, National Bureau of Economic Research, December 2017.

[6] *Ibid.*

[7] Morris M. Kleiner, **License to Compete: Occupational Licensing and the State Action Doctrine**, Testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights, February 2, 2016.

[8] Morris M. Kleiner, *Reforming Occupational Licensing Policies*, The Hamilton Project, March 2015.

[9] The White House, *Occupational Licensing: A Framework for Policymakers*, July 2015.

[10] Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta, **Speech before the 44th Annual Meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council**, U.S. Department of Labor, July 21, 2017.

[11] Tom Lampman, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*, The Buckeye Institute, November 18, 2015.

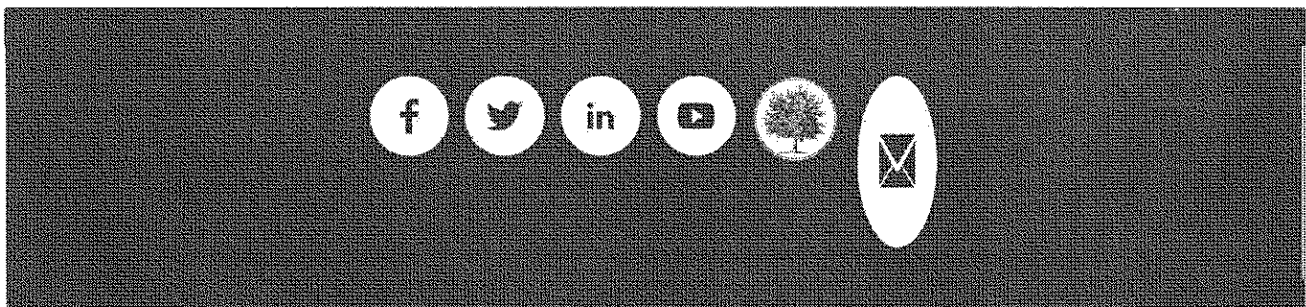
[12] Orphe Pierre Divounguys, PhD, Bryce Hill, and Greg R. Lawson, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*, The Buckeye Institute, December 18, 2017.

[13] Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Ohio Economy at a Glance**, U.S. Department of Labor (Last visited March 16, 2018).

#

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

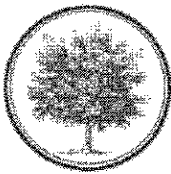
From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 4:11 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Capital Budget Should be Reduced to Off-Set Costs of Voting Machines

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)

Apologies, you will have received a press release for testimony Greg R. Lawson will be giving tomorrow on Senate Bill 255. You should have received the below release on Lawson's testimony on Senate Bill 135. I am sorry for the mistake and the inconvenience.

Lisa Gates



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Capital Budget Should be Reduced to Off-Set Costs of Voting Machines

Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio Senate Finance Committee on Senate Bill 135

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee on Senate Bill 135.

Lawson opened his testimony telling the committee that The Buckeye Institute supported funding to replace Ohio's aging voting machines, calling it "a wise use of state dollars that serves a core government function." He went on to say, "As we explained in our recent report, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, funding Ohio's democratic infrastructure ultimately helps to maintain the integrity of our state."

While Buckeye supports state funding to replace Ohio's aging voting machines, Lawson noted "the capital budget -- and not a separate funding bill -- is the more appropriate legislative vehicle for funding state infrastructure and core government responsibilities." With the decision by policymakers to use a separate funding mechanism, Lawson urged policymakers to off-set the capital budget by the corresponding amount "in order to maintain longer-term spending balance."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 135
Before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 20, 2018**

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today about an issue critical to all Ohioans -- strengthening our democratic infrastructure.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

Senate Bill 135 includes funding to replace Ohio's aging voting machines -- a wise use of state dollars that serves a core government function. Democratic elections represent the key mechanism by which citizens choose their leaders and hold them accountable. Thus, they undergird the very foundation of our democracy. To maintain the integrity of the election process is to maintain the integrity of our democratic infrastructure. And as we explained in our recent report, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, funding Ohio's democratic infrastructure ultimately helps to maintain the integrity of our state.[1]

President Ronald Reagan once said, "Every American must know he or she can count on an equal chance and an equal vote." [2] Counting on that equal chance requires counting every vote -- with voting machines. In today's democratic process, voting machines are a key piece of infrastructure on which our elections depend. Unfortunately, many of Ohio's county boards of elections still rely on voting machines purchased more than a decade ago with funds from the federal Help America Vote Act. [3] These machines are in desperate need of replacement.

The Buckeye Institute supports using state funds for new voting machines, but as I mentioned to this Committee last week, the capital budget -- and not a separate funding bill -- is the more appropriate legislative vehicle for funding state infrastructure and core government responsibilities. Funding for voting machines should have been included in the capital budget, and to the extent that a separate mechanism, such as S.B. 135, is used instead, then the capital budget should be off-set by the corresponding amount in order to maintain longer-term spending balance.

Finding cost off-sets in the capital budget to pay for upgrading voting machines is not difficult. Many of the line items listed in our Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018 [4] could be cut or eliminated to pay for replacing our outdated voting machines, including \$4 million for a Cincinnati soccer stadium, \$5 million for retail and restaurant space at COSI in Columbus, and \$400,000 on ill-advised, government-owned broadband networks throughout the state. Reducing state funding for locally-focused projects would make it easier to afford new election machines and other infrastructure needs such as sewers and wastewater treatment facilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to answering any questions that the Committee may have.

[1] Greg R. Lawson and Quinn Beeson, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, The Buckeye Institute, February 5, 2018.

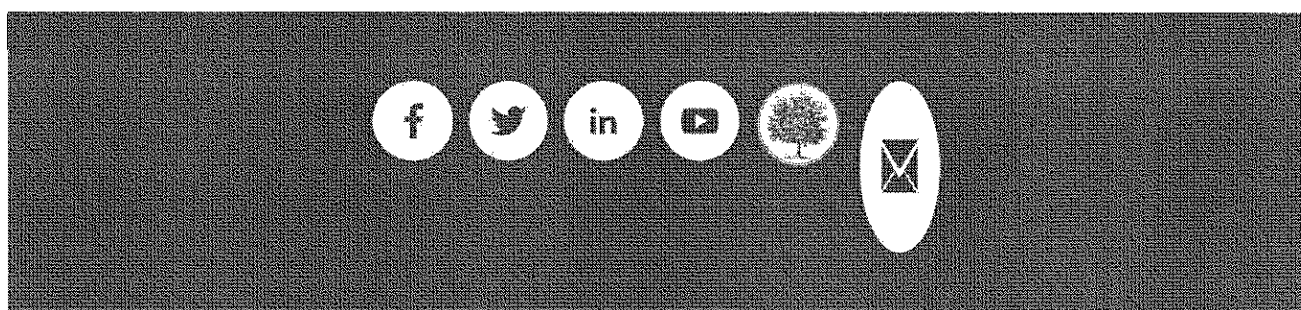
[2] President Ronald Reagan, *Statement About the Extension of the Voting Rights Act*, November 6, 1981.

[3] *Husted Calls for Replacement of Ohio's Aging Voting Equipment*, Ohio Secretary of State Office press release, December 14, 2017.

[4] *More Than \$18 Million Spent on The Buckeye Institute's Top 10 List of Worst Capital Budget Requests*, The Buckeye Institute press release, March 5, 2018.

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org